

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

January 1997



Learn about 'People with Dirty Hands'



Robin Chotzinoff will introduce you to interesting gardens and gardeners on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 7 to 8 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Chotzinoff offers an offbeat tour of colorful American gardeners in her newly released book, *People with Dirty Hands: A Passion For Gardening*. Her whimsical up-close and personal view of idiosyncratic sowers of the seed is "written with style, passion and readable, quirky nosiness" (Chicago Sun-Times).

You'll meet those whose gardens are a tangle of flowers, a high-style design in the foothills outside Boulder, a chile garden with fruit hot enough to make your eyes water, or a rambling rose garden

with hardy plants. You'll learn about Chotzinoff, who patrols her garden on hot weekend afternoons in her "lucky garden clothes: a weight belt, ancient skirted bathing suit and L.L. Bean duck-hunting boots."

Published in 1996, her book was dubbed one of the best gardening books in recent history by *Publishers Weekly*—"Sit back and enjoy the company. This group is sheer delight...Chotzinoff delivers one of the most amusing, eclectic gardening books in recent memory."

Chotzinoff is a staff writer for Denver's *Westword* and a contributor to *Garden Design* magazine. She also has written for *New Republic* and *Outside*.

The lecture is \$6 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. Chotzinoff will sign her book after the talk. Helen Fowler Library will remain open the night of the lecture from 5 to 7 p.m.

Incredibly edible coffee and tea

You'll discover the hottest drinks around in DBG's first Incredible Edibles program, "Coffee, Tea and DBG," Jan. 18 to 20. Sipping espresso and brewing pots of herbal teas are increasingly popular activities. You'll be able to sample these and other varieties and learn more about them from beverage specialists. Celestial Seasonings, Allegro Coffee, Mountain Chai Company, Peaberry Coffee, Unitea Company, Teeccino and Alfalfa's Market will provide demonstrations, displays and sales booths.

On Saturday Kevin Knox, senior vice president of coffee operations and a coffee buyer for Allegro, will talk about his new book *Coffee Basics, A Quick and Easy Guide*. Trish Falster, editor of the *Economic Botany* newsletter and ethnobotanist, will discuss how people use plants and herbal tea history.

On Sunday Kathleen Brown, herbalist and teacher who owns Brown Bag Inc. and local herb teaching company Herbs and Verbs, will discuss the historical uses of herbs and how they are used today. She will focus on some common herbs and explain the properties that make them useful in teas. You'll be able to sample some of the herbs she discusses. Brian Dorsey will show slides of African coffee plantations and the people who farm these lands. He will focus on the social and economic aspects of coffee growing in Kenya, highlighting the different varieties.

Monday's speakers include Brown and Jane Bock, professor in the Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology Department at C.U., Boulder. Bock will speak on the history of tea and its important role in today's society. She also will compare caffeine levels in tea to other caffeinated beverages.

The Incredible Edibles program continues Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1 and 2, with "Chocolate, The Divine Food." There will be samplings, displays and sale booths from various chocolate companies that feature favorite chocolate treats, cooking demonstrations and talks on this divine food.

All programs are included in general gate admission: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and students with IDs, \$1 for youth 6 to 15 (free to DBG members and children 5 and younger). Each program features a unique make-it and take-it activity for children. For more information call 370-8020.

Green Thumb News January 1997

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edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for March issue: Jan. 17

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays.

Offices
Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8000
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

As a leader in presenting excellent and unusual horticulture, it is only natural that Denver Botanic Gardens play a role in such a large and public event as the Colorado Garden & Home Show.

At the CGHS, we have the opportunity to reach thousands of potential new members—with a common interest in gardening. After seeing the quality and scope of our educational, research and horticultural programs, not to mention our numerous fun special events, many CGHS visitors will decide to join the DBG family.

This year, we will create and maintain one of the feature gardens at the show. The garden will be a recreation of a tropical rainforest in anticipation of the renovation of Boettcher Conservatory during 1997. It will provide a beautiful haven in the convention hall and educate young and old on the importance of the rainforest—and it will attract even more visitors to our booth. The horticulture staff already has devoted many hours to planning this magnificent plot. They will put forth a tremendous effort next month in planting the garden and caring for it during the show.

The show is Feb. 1 to 9 at the Colorado Convention Center. As a DBG member, you will receive \$1 off admission to the show when you bring the coupon on page 7. After browsing the many other booths and gardens, be sure to stop by DBG's garden. You'll be proud to say it's yours!

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

DBG sets '97 free days

DBG's York Street gardens and Chatfield Arboretum again will offer free admission to Colorado residents several days in 1997. Free days are made possible by funds from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

York Street free days will be Mondays, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1 and Oct. 6. Chatfield's free days will be the first Friday of every month, and visitors can participate in a free drop-in tour of the Arboretum during each free day. For more information on York Street free days call 370-8187. For more information on the Arboretum's free days or drop-in tours, call 973-3705.

Long-time employee Latta retires

After 22 years of employment at the Gardens, Larry Latta, former public information coordinator, retired this fall.

Latta began his services at DBG in 1974, working in the Horticulture Department. He was promoted to the position of botanist/horticulturist in 1980.

In 1990 he assumed the position of public information coordinator in the Marketing and Special Events Department. He was responsible for working with the news media to promote the Gardens and its many events, writing and editing all print material including the *Green Thumb News* and *Mountain, Plain and Garden* magazine, and serving on many committees. Being a long-time employee, he also was a valuable historian who witnessed many important milestones in DBG's history. His skills and knowledge will be greatly missed at DBG.

Marketing director leaves DBG

Robert Burns, director of marketing and special events at DBG, recently left the Gardens to become a professor of journalism in the Metropolitan State College of Denver Journalism Department.

Burns served as the marketing director for six years, where he managed publicity, promotions and publications. He also was responsible for overseeing DBG's many special events.

Bob's expertise in all aspects of marketing brought a new level of professionalism to this vital part of the Gardens, and he will be missed.

Trustee Thompson receives award

Denver Botanic Gardens trustee Kyla Thompson received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Colorado Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Thompson, chief executive officer of the Jefferson Group West in Denver, was honored for her service on the boards of more than 15 community organizations and thousands of hours of community service during her 29-year public relations and marketing career.

Tour guides needed at DBG

You can explore the opportunities of becoming a DBG tour guide at a volunteer open house Tuesday, Feb. 4, in John C. Mitchell II Hall from 9 a.m. to noon. You'll be able to ask staff and guides questions and learn about the five DBG tour guide programs: Outdoor, Chatfield Arboretum Naturalist, Mount Goliath, Preschool and Sensory. Refreshments will be served; preregistration is required.

Outdoor guides lead groups of all ages through the various outdoor gardens at York Street. Training is Tuesday mornings March 4 through April 15.

Naturalist guides lead educational tours related to plants, animals and the ecosystems of the Arboretum area. Training is Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from March 4 to 26 (snow dates April 1 & 2).

Mount Goliath tour guides teach about the plants and animals that live above timberline on Mount Goliath, a lesser peak of the Mount. Evans complex. Training is seven Wednesday mornings between March 12 and May 28. A field trip June 11 will conclude the class.

Preschooler guide training is May 14, 21 and 28. Guides will learn to help 2- to 5-year-olds explore DBG with all their senses, using puppets, storytelling and plant materials to pique their interests.

Sensory guides show people with disabilities how to enjoy and learn about plants through the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing. Training is Fridays, May 2, 16, 30 and June 6.

All guide training classes teach practical information and give you a chance to practice guiding techniques with other students. Following the training, guides are expected to volunteer at least twice a month. Tours are offered on weekdays, weekends and occasional evenings for special events. The open house on Feb. 4 is free. A minimal materials fee for each guide program varies. For more information or to register call 370-8020.

Garden & Home Show opens next month

Are you looking for new garden or home improvement ideas? Then plan to attend the 38th annual Colorado Garden & Home Show Feb. 1 to 9 at the Colorado Convention Center.

The show will feature more than 20,000 square feet of flowering garden displays and more than 650 booths exhibiting thousands of garden and home-related products and services. Educational seminars on the latest in gardening and landscaping techniques and a standard flower show presented by the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs are included.

This year DBG will have a feature garden at the show. The focus of the tropical display will be a large fabricated silk-cotton tree that hosts vibrantly colored orchids and bromeliads. Membership information and general information on the Gardens also will be available. DBG's presence at the show is a valuable tool for introducing new gardeners—or old hats—to DBG's horticultural and educational resources.

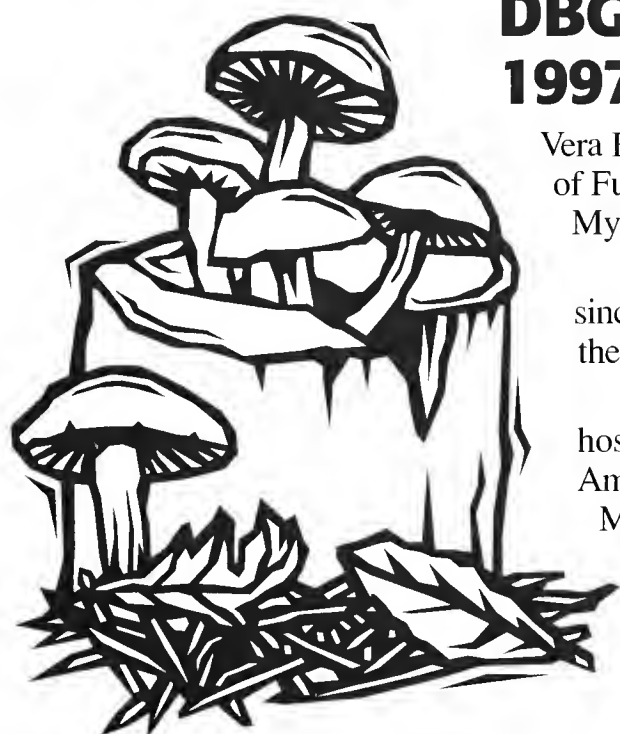
Admission to the CGHS is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and free for youth 12 and younger. As a DBG member, you'll receive \$1 off when you present the coupon on p. 7 of this month's *Green Thumb News*. For more information on CGHS, call 303-696-6100.

DBG's Evenson to lead 1997 mycological society

Vera Evenson, DBG's associate curator of the Herbarium of Fungi, has been elected president of the Colorado Mycological Society for 1997.

Evenson has been a member of the DBG staff since 1990. From 1977 to 1990 she was a volunteer in the mycology department.

This year the Colorado Mycological Society will host the national convention and foray of the North American Mycological Association in Copper Mountain Aug. 14 to 17. The foray will honor the memory of Dr. D.H. "Sam" Mitchel, founder of the Colorado Mycological Society. In 1961, he established DBG's Herbarium of Fungi and was curator until his retirement in 1991.



Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. I received an azalea plant as a gift. How should I care for it, and can I save it to plant outdoors?

A. Few plants can brighten a winter day as well as a colorful azalea. The plants last better at indoor locations with bright, indirect light and cool temperatures. They need a constant supply of moisture yet demand plenty of air in the root zone. Water frequently, but don't let the pot stand in water. Azaleas and their cousins, the rhododendrons, grow poorly as landscape plants in the Denver area. Those that survive must be selected from the most cold tolerant varieties and require careful site selection and soil preparation. Unfortunately, the florist's azalea is not among them.

Q. What trees grow in this area that will produce edible nuts?

A. Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) is the first tree that comes to mind. The species seems quite tolerant of local soils and is found in a variety of locations along the Front Range. Another possibility, well-suited to dry sites, is pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*). Both require years, if not a decade or two, to reach a size that would produce significant quantities of nuts.

Q. Is it OK to feed my African violet an all-purpose fertilizer for houseplants?

A. First, note that far too many gardeners over-fertilize plants both indoors and in their gardens. As long as plants are growing and performing satisfactorily, there is no need for a fertilizer regime that is based on the calendar. That said, it won't harm your African violet to receive something other than African violet food. In fact, "turf builder" may be used on a philodendron. Plant fertilizers are all made from the same chemicals, whether they are labeled for tomatoes or African violets. The important difference is the analysis on the label, such as 30-10-10, 15-10-5, etc. Those three numbers indicate the percentages of the three primary plant nutrients in the fertilizer: nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, respectively. You must read the label carefully to apply the proper amount based on fertilizer strength. A 5-5-5 analysis would be considered a fairly weak product while a 20-20-20 could easily "burn" plants if applied in excess. Plants grown for foliage, such as most trees and shrubs, turf and foliage houseplants usually are fed with fertilizers high in nitrogen. Flowers, vegetables and fruit crops often receive fertilizers higher in phosphorous and/or potassium.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.

Employee of the month

Julie Loquidis, horticulturist, was voted November's employee of the month. Julie's maintenance of the Water-Smart Garden™ has been commended by Lauren Springer, the garden's designer. Her idea for the children's storybook garden was creative and very widely applauded. Julie has received many compliments on her cheery disposition, helpfulness and willingness to be a team player. Congratulations, Julie.



PLANTS FROM THE PAGES OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Catalogs fill unique desires

Looking ahead to next season is a year-round obsession for gardeners: we wonder and we wish. One of the best ways to fulfill those wishes is through catalogs. Mail-order catalogs are truly our "wish books." Helen Fowler Library has a fine, large collection (more than 350) of current gardening catalogs. Some of the more interesting ones sell heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables, and native Colorado plants.

The Yucca Do Nursery at Peckerwood Gardens, Walker, Texas, is all business with a minimum of photos but offers a wide variety of bare-root trees, perennials, lilies, bulbs and grasses.

Rare seeds of tropical trees and houseplants such as papayas, peppers and palms are offered by the Banana Tree of Easton, Penn. Also available are voodoo bulbs and sea onions.

If you are looking for more than just plants, Smith & Hawken of Florence, Ky., offers wreath frames, gardening clothes and plant stands in an attractive color catalog that arrives several times per year. Gardeners Eden of San Francisco,

Calif., also provides plenty of interesting furniture in wood, wicker and hemp (hammocks).

Rocky Mountain Rare Plants in Franktown, Colo., is a great mail-order source for seeds of plants native to the region. With a wide selection and useful instructions this catalog is a good source for plants you may have seen on hikes or on a stroll through the Rock Alpine Garden.

Finally, Seeds of Change in Santa Fe, N.M., offers organically grown seeds of vegetables, herbs and flowers as well as gardening tools and books in an interesting color catalog. It is dedicated to increasing biodiversity.

If any of these catalogs are tempting, come browse the selection at Helen Fowler Library. And if you are interested in finding a specific plant or product, two extremely useful references are available in the library. *Andersen's Source List* indexes seed and plant sources by botanical name, and *Barton's Gardening by Mail* provides sources for many plants and gardening items.

Gayle Bradbeer
Associate Librarian

Anyone who has gardened for more than a decade or two knows that horticulture is not immune to the whims of fashion. (Recall the houseplant rage of the '70s?) From several sources we've gleaned the following trends for 1997:

- Rainforest redux.... Indeed, along with bell-bottoms and platform shoes, houseplants are making a comeback. Orchids, in particular, seem to be the plants of the moment.
- Rattlin' cucurbits! A reliable DBG source predicts that gourds will be the next garden plant rage.
- Color trends... Those wishing to display blossoms of style will avoid pastel tones and select primary colors or vivid shades. White flowers, of course, are always in fashion.
- South African plants are hot! hot! hot!
- Water gardening and Water-Smart Gardening™ will both continue to gain momentum. (Confused yet savvy gardeners following the extremes of both trends will create a hybrid style—to be known as the “oasis” look.)
- And, finally, two important words to remember—*Rhynchelytrum nervighuue*.

Useful plants for winter gardens

Bark, fruit, seedheads, form, and even foliage and flowers are considerations when planning a “winter garden.” DBG horticulturists Suzie Brown and Vanessa Tatsch recommend the following plants to beautify the landscape throughout the year and to particularly capture your imagination in the dormant season.

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)—Beautiful, rusty oak-colored peeling bark and ruffled seedheads on this small shrub catch the frost and make the garden look like a fairyland.

Lacebark pine (*Pinus bungeana*)—The mottled green, tan and brown bark of this potentially large, long-needled pine tree is fascinating throughout the year.

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)—This small, graceful shrub displays pinkish fruits along its arching stems.

Blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*)—The shiny, black seeds are lovely against a background of new fallen snow.

Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)—This Colorado native will decorate the garden with its wheat-colored seedheads all winter.

Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)—The white and pink feathery plumes of seeds persist throughout the winter on this adaptable Colorado native.

Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*)—The white and pink flowers contrast beautifully with dark, evergreen leaves in mid-winter.



(left) Gourds may be the next garden plant rage.
(below) Lacebark pine grows at the east end of DBG's Wingsong Garden berm.



Learn the foundation of a strong garden

Strong bones, the essential design framework, lie at the heart of making great gardens. The structure of a garden may be so subtle that it seems almost invisible. Nonetheless, it remains the guiding factor around which all else develops. On Thursday, Feb. 6, *Horticulture* magazine will bring to Denver its national symposium, "Strong Bones, The Foundation of a Great Garden." DBG will offer a complementary program, "Finishing Touches, Fleshing Out Your Garden Picture," on Friday, Feb. 7. Both programs will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

How does one recognize a critical point of balance? Are there constructed elements—arbors, archways, pools or gazebos—or living structures—groups of plants—which provide weight in the balance of the design? How do pathways contribute to overall intent? How has the perimeter of the garden been established and linked to the surrounding landscape? Has thought been given to the role of light and shadow in the making of the garden picture? You'll learn the answers to these questions—and much more.

On Thursday, *Horticulture* magazine's "Strong Bones" program will begin with designer Wayne Winterrowd showing how he works from the perimeters of a garden into the core in his lecture, "From Structure to Informality: Planning the Garden Framework." In "The Irresistible Garden Path," renowned plantsman Gordon Hayward will demonstrate that pathways are the lifelines of the garden. J.C. Raulston will help you discover a range of elegant and exciting connoisseur's plants for your own garden in "Form and Texture with Connoisseurs' Plants." Local designers Diane Ipsen and Alan Rollinger will show "Case Studies in Structuring Colorado Gardens" that harmonize the natural landscape and regional materials with conventional design traditions. Jan Moyer will finish up the day showing you how landscape lighting can extend your time and pleasure in the garden in "Shadow-Play: The Art of Garden Lighting."

Friday's program, "Finishing Touches," will feature local specialists who will help add the finishing touches to your garden. In "Living Outdoors" Rob Proctor will show you how to take an ordinary patio and make it extraordinary. Designer Robin Preston and plantsman David Macke will show you how to enhance your enjoyment of living outdoors by sharing your garden with pets and wildlife in "Creature Comforts." Panayoti Kelaidis, DBG's Rock Alpine Garden curator, will demonstrate ways to roll rocks into your garden to add structure and drama in "Rock & Roll: Adding A Rock Feature." In "Water in Small Places" Joseph Tomocik, DBG's Water Garden curator, will show you how to add water features to your yard.

Cost for both Thursday and Friday is \$129 for DBG members, \$149 for *Horticulture* magazine subscribers and \$159 for nonmembers. Cost for Thursday's "Strong Bones" program only is \$89 for DBG members, \$99 for *Horticulture* magazine subscribers and \$109 for nonmembers. For Friday's "Finishing Touches" program only cost is \$50 for DBG members, \$60 for nonmembers. You may register through *Horticulture* magazine, 1-800-395-1901 or FAX 1-617-367-6364 (indicate your choice of regular or vegetarian lunch with your registration). For more information, call DBG's registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019.

Park Meadows offers amazing opportunities

Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean activities are slowing down at The Amazing Space in Park Meadows.

DBG offers a plethora of programming this month for children 6 to 9 years old, with different projects daily. Children can make Aboriginal bark paintings and flax dolls, or participate in yucca pounding. They'll discover how our ancestors might have used plants while trying a hand at some traditional crafts. The Amazing Space and the Children's Museum of Denver also will have a range of programs that reach students 3 to 9 years of age.

For more information, please call the Amazing Space, 708-0000.

Botanical illustrators exhibit at DBG

Feb. 14 marks the public opening of Denver Botanic Gardens' Botanical Illustration Show. The show will provide DBG members and visitors an opportunity to see botanical illustrations by amateur and professional artists from across the nation. Several of the works will be for sale.

The show also will exhibit the works of botanical illustrator Anne Ophelia Dowden. Watch next month's *Green Thumb News* for a profile on this renowned nature artist and author.

The Botanical Illustration Show is an outgrowth of Denver Botanic Gardens' School of Botanical Illustration program. The program has grown greatly over the last six years under the instruction of Angela Overy, Rob Proctor and Marjorie Leggitt.

The show and sale will be Feb. 14 to 23. For more information call Marcia Bosio, 370-8012, or Amy Capra, 370-8021.

From your membership office

Behind-the-Scenes tour... for new members!

New members are invited to a light lunch and tour of DBG's production greenhouse areas on Saturday, Jan. 25. DBG's greenhouse staff and volunteers will be on hand to guide tours and answer questions about the plants and the growing area.

A light lunch will be served in John C. Mitchell II Hall, and tour groups will leave at noon or 1 p.m. Reservations are required and limited. Please call 370-8018 to RSVP and to specify which time you prefer to tour the greenhouses.

'My Magic Garden': A puppet show for Valentine's Day

Members and their children are invited to a puppet show presented by Puppetmasters puppeteers Alice Szwarc and Annette Crawford Sunday, Feb. 9.

"My Magic Garden" is a musical variety puppet show where bugs dance and sing, a tree comes to life and flowers grow on stage. Set in a life-size picture book garden setting, this charming show teaches that all of nature's creatures, no matter how small, are important to us and our living world.

Following the show Valentine's Day refreshments will be served, and children will have the opportunity to create a special "bug" valentine.

Reservations are limited and required. Look for your invitation in the mail, and make your reservation soon. Cost is \$3 per person. The show is recommended for children in preschool through sixth grade and adults of all ages.

Garden and Home Show discount

DBG members in search of new gardening or home decorating ideas should plan a visit to the Colorado Garden & Home Show Feb. 1 to 9 at the Colorado Convention Center. Clip the coupon on this page, and you'll receive \$1 off admission to the show. For more information on your member benefits, call 370-8029.

Book donations needed



DBG's Helen Fowler Library needs your used books and other donated materials to sell at the Plant and Book Sale this spring.

Proceeds from the book sale, the library's largest money-maker, are the only source of funds to buy new books for the botanical and horticultural collections. Used books on all subjects, videocassettes, audio recordings and magazines are sought. You can drop off your donations at the library, or to arrange a pick-up of more than four boxes, call 370-8014.

Tributes

In memory of Margaret Barnett

Ms. Laurie Dawes

In memory of Dr. Johann Marx

Mrs. Faye Ellen Winger

In memory of Betty Belle Zimmerman

The Crestmoor Park Garden Club

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.



Present this coupon for \$1 off admission to the
Colorado Garden & Home Show

Feb. 1 to 9

at the Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St., Denver

Regular admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors,
free for children 12 and younger.

For information on the Colorado Garden & Home Show
call 640-8000.

1997 BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION SHOW MEMBERS PREVIEW RECEPTION

HONORING ANNE OPHELIA DOWDEN,

RENOWNED BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATOR

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

6 TO 7:30 P.M.

JOHN C. MITCHELL II HALL

1005 YORK ST.

WINE AND CHEESE WILL BE SERVED.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AND LIMITED.

PLEASE CALL 370-8018.

January

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DBG sets '97 free days.

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Horticulture magazine symposium returns to DBG.

page 6

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Address correction requested



Coming Up:

January

- 3 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 4 Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
- 11 American Iris Society meeting
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 12 *Aromatherapy Part III*
- 14 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 15 N. Am. Rock Garden Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting
Herb Society of America meeting
- 18 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council meeting
- 18-20 Incredible Edibles: Coffee, Tea & DBG
- 19 Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 22 * *Vines and Ground Covers*
- 23 "People with Dirty Hands" lecture
African Violet Society meeting
- 25 New Member Party
* *Botany for Gardeners*
Identifying Colorado Conifers
American Iris Society meeting
- 27 * *Homeowner's Landscape Design The*
Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 28 * *Beginning Botanical Watercolors*
Colorado Native Plant Society meeting
- 29 * *Conifers for Colorado Gardens*
- 30 * *Beginning Bonsai*
New Ideas for Soil Care



February

- 1 *Understanding Front Range Soils*
* *Basics of Beekeeping*
Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
- 1,2 Incredible Edibles: Chocolate, The Divine Food
- 2 Ikebana meeting
- 3 * *Controlling Slope*
- 4 Open House for Prospective Volunteers
- 5 *From Cuts to Creation*
- 6 *Mountain Survival Skills*
Strong Bones — The Foundation of a Great Garden symposium
- 7 Finishing Touches — Fleshing Out Your Garden Picture symposium
Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 * *Propagation Workshop*
Fresh Cut Flower Care
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 9 Valentine's Day Celebration — for members only!
- 10 *Romance & Lace: A Heart Shaped Birch Wreath*
- 11 * *Rocky Mountain Horticulture I: Gardening Principles*
* *Terrific Trees for Home Gardens*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 13 * *The Smaller Rock Garden*
Botanical Illustration Show Preview — for members only!
Denver Rose Society meeting
- 14-23 Botanical Illustration Show
- 15 *Homeowners' Tree Biology*

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

February 1997



Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series: In the garden and beyond

The 1997 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series is for gardening enthusiasts, horticulturists, designers or anyone wishing to learn more about the world of plants. The series explores the diversity of plants, people, gardening and ecology. Lectures are in John C. Mitchell II Hall at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesdays of February, March, April, September and October.

Judith Phillips, landscape designer and plant grower, will begin the series Feb. 26. Her inspirational talk will show southwestern gardeners the art of design, the natural beauty of native and adaptive plants and the joy that is the impetus for gardening.

When gardens are designed in harmony with the local climate—soils and other variables that make spaces unique—they are more inviting and less demanding to maintain. Arid western gardeners take cues from three basic ecosystem models: upland foothills, high plains grasslands and

(Continued on page 6: "Bonfils-Stanton...")



Judith Phillips shows harmoniously designed gardens, like this foothills garden in Albuquerque, N.M., during her talk Feb. 26.

Anne Ophelia Dowden: A life of achievements

"...I am intensely aware of plants and animals that so completely encloses us human beings," said Anne Ophelia Dowden in *Something About the Author: Autobiography Series*. "And I am always surprised who are not aware of it—people do not realize that if it were not there, they would not be there either, and that the environment is more than a nice place for a vacation. Getting acquainted with this natural world is tremendously important, and caring about it is the moral duty of every person who shares its benefits."

Dowden, well-known botanical illustrator, will be honored at DBG's first Botanical Illustration Show Feb. 14 to 23. Several of her works will be on display. Her love, respect and knowledge for flowers and her great technical skill in design has made her world-renowned as a botanical illustrator.

Dowden began botanical painting after spending many years in related fields of art. Before the publication of her first book in 1961 she was a teacher, textile designer and mural painter. After one year at the University of Colorado she studied illustration at Carnegie Institute of Technology, graduated in 1930 and moved to New York City to begin illustrating books. Finding work in her field was difficult during the Depression, so she became a teacher at Pratt Institute and then at

Manhattenville College. Here, she administered the art department for more than 20 years.

While teaching Dowden continued as a creative artist, designing high-style fabrics and wall-papers. While on a sabbatical in 1932 she created paintings of edible wild plants, several of which were published in *Life* magazine. This began her interest in botanical illustration.

Dowden, currently a Boulder resident, is the illustrator and author of numerous books. Many have received awards from the Children's Books Council, the American Library Association and the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Denver Botanic Gardens' school of botanical illustration teaches this art that Dowden has so perfected. Beginning this year, DBG will award an annual scholarship in Dowden's name to a student in its school of botanical illustration.

This year's inaugural Botanical Illustration Show will feature 175 works by artists from all over the nation. Several of the pieces will be for sale. The show is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Entrance to the show is included in general gate admission: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors, \$1 for youth 6 to 15 and free to children 5 and younger and DBG members. For more information call 370-8021.

Green Thumb News February 1997

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for April issue: Feb. 17

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	331-4009
<i>Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

This month, as you see in accompanying articles, we are presenting our first truly national botanical illustration show. Last year when we decided to develop this show, we had no idea of the overwhelming response from all over the country that we would receive.

Among the most wonderful parts of gardening, and of botanic gardens in particular, is how many ways they can be enjoyed and how many different ways people learn from and about plants. Botanical illustration, once the province of only a handful of people, has become an important element of Denver Botanic Gardens through our botanical illustration program accredited by the University of Colorado. With three magnificent instructors, Marjorie Leggitt, Angela Overy and Rob Proctor, we have developed one of the foremost programs in the United States

Now, thanks to the reputation we have as teachers, we are able to mount this wonderful show. At the same time, it gives us great pleasure to be able to honor at the opening Anne Ophelia Dowden, the first lady of botanical illustration, who is known throughout the world for her lifetime of extraordinary work.

In the middle of winter, what better time to enjoy botanical art at its finest. And while you're here to see the show, please take a stroll through the gardens, particularly the Japanese Garden, which can be truly magical in winter.

*Richard H. Daley
Executive Director*

Orchid show and sale planned for March

The Denver Orchid Society will hold its spring show and sale at Denver Botanic Gardens Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2.

Members of the society will mount elaborate displays of blooming orchid plants. Moderately priced orchid plants, most in full bloom, will be for sale. Expert orchid growers will be on hand to offer advice and share their experiences.

The show is included in DBG's standard admission fees: \$3 for adults, \$1 for youth 6 to 15, free to children 5 and younger and DBG members. For more information call 370-8187.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

In early January Denver Botanic Gardens' Gift Shop closed for renovations. The shop will reopen this spring in an expanded facility with hundreds of new items. The exterior wall will be moved south, increasing the retail area by 50 percent. This will allow DBG to expand significantly its gift inventory and sell live plants, an added treat for Gift Shop customers. Watch future issues of *Green Thumb News* for updates on DBG's improvement projects.



Edward P. Connors, new life trustee

DBG names Connors life trustee

Denver Botanic Gardens' Board of Trustees named past president Edward P. Connors a life member of the board at its November meeting.

Connors was instrumental in starting the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. He was the initial promoter of the idea, based on models in St. Louis and Chicago, where the botanic gardens in those cities receive funds from special taxing districts. At the time, Connors was president of DBG's board, and he spread his idea and enthusiasm to trustees at other cultural institutions including the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Denver Zoo. The idea soon gained a life of its own, leading to the legislation and vote establishing the SCFD.

Connors was elected to the board in 1969 and has been a term trustee ever since. He served as board president from 1984 to 1987.

Garden design symposium Feb. 6 & 7

“Strong Bones: The Foundation of a Great Garden” Thursday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall, brings some of the nation’s top gardening experts to Denver. The program introduces you to organizing, planting and highlighting the space in your garden and is presented by DBG and *Horticulture* magazine. Then, on Friday, Feb. 7, you can flesh out your gardening picture with talks on structure and design by outstanding local gardeners.

Amateur gardeners, landscape designers and nursery and garden center professionals all will benefit from this exciting two-day program.

Please register early—for one or both days—space is limited. For more information or to sign up call 370-8020.

Incredible chocolates and tropical harvests

Denver Botanic Gardens invites you to expand your horizons with “The Incredible Edibles,” a series of programs that help you discover tasty treats and exotic plants.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1 and 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. discover “Chocolate, The Divine Food.” The tropical regions of Mexico are home to chocolate, considered the food of the gods. You’ll learn more about the chocolate plant’s unusual flowers, how chocolate is processed into candies and the cultures of the people who grow the plants. Free samples, children’s activities, educational exhibits and talks by experts will provide you with all you need to know about this divine treat—just in time for Valentine’s Day.

Then, March 8 and 9, learn about a “Tropical Harvest—Fruits and Spices of the Tropics.” From passion fruit and star fruit to cinnamon and cardamom, you’ll be able to taste tropical treats, learn about where they come from and what they’re used for, participate in a hands-on children’s activity and view educational exhibits.

Future Incredible Edibles programs are “A Culinary Garden—Herbs, Flowers and Salads” April 6 and 7 and “Bread Basket—Regional Foods, Regional Grains” May 3 and 4. All programs are free to Denver Botanic Gardens members and children 5 and younger; nonmembers pay only gate admission fee (\$3 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and students, \$1 for youth 6 to 15). Programs are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. For more information call 370-8041.

Learn about statistics and the environment

Professor Albert Bartlett takes an intelligent, analytical and skeptical look at some allegations concerning the future of our consumption patterns of non-renewable resources, and comes up with some fascinating conclusions, on Wednesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Bartlett’s talk examines the implications of steady growth on a finite environment and gives recommendations for dealing with the problems of this growth. Understanding the limits of our non-renewable natural resources is essential for anyone who wants to leave a habitable planet for their grandchildren. This lecture just might change the way you live.

Dr. Bartlett is a professor emeritus in the physics department at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has served on the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and was a founding member of Plan-Boulder County, an environmental organization for the City and County of Boulder.

Cost for the lecture is \$6 for Denver Botanic Gardens and American Institute of Architects members and \$7 for nonmembers. Call DBG’s registration office to reserve your spot, 370-8019 or 370-8020.

Internship applications due this month

Students interested in DBG’s 1997 Summer Internship Program in Applied Horticulture are reminded that all completed application materials are due Feb. 17. This 10-week internship is from June 9 to Aug. 15 and offers students the opportunity to work alongside DBG’s professional gardening staff, learning the daily operations of a public display garden. Field trips, special projects and lectures help to round out the program that highlights Front Range horticulture.

For information or application materials, call Paula Ogilvie, DBG adult education specialist, 370-8041.

Volunteers needed for Plant and Book Sale

Denver Botanic Gardens’ annual Plant and Book Sale is the largest volunteer-run plant sale in the nation. Here’s a chance to be a part of it!

More than 1,200 volunteers are needed to work the sale—this year May 8, 9 and 10. Positions are available in most plant divisions and in customer service and at the check-out counters. Volunteers do not have to be knowledgeable about plants to help.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting event, call 331-4011.

Chrysanthemum trials return to DBG

Autumn DBG visitors may have noticed the colorful chrysanthemums encircling the central bed of the lilac garden. This planting represents the first year of a three-year trial of 59 mum varieties (*Dendranthema x grandiflora* cultivars) to determine their hardiness in Colorado.

This study will reveal which varieties will successfully regrow over the next two years in our conditions (USDA hardiness zone 5). In addition to longevity, we are recording duration of bloom, flower size, flower color, pests and diseases, plant habit and plant height.

The mum planting has been arranged according to flower color. In the north section of the garden are 11 white flowered varieties. The east section contains 16 yellow mum hybrids, and the south portion of the garden is home to the red and rust colored types. You can find pink and lavender varieties in the west section.

It might be difficult to choose a favorite among these prolifically flowering plants. Hopefully, as this study continues, it will be easier to determine and recommend mum varieties that grow and survive well in this climate.



'Donna' chrysanthemum grows in DBG's chrysanthemum trial bed.

Gardener's Glossary

Tomentose: Covered with dense, matted, woolly hairs like the foliage of this *Verbascum bombyciferum* 'Arctic Summer' in DBG's O'Fallon Perennial Walk. Such hairs give the leaves a silver-white appearance that provides visual, tactile and textural interest. This adaptation is frequently found on drought tolerant plants. The hairs reflect sunlight and help prevent drying of the leaf surface in warm breezes.



Verbascum bombyciferum 'Arctic Summer'



PLANTS FROM THE PAGES OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Phalaenopsis habitat and history

Where does a plant that does well as a houseplant come from? There are approximately 40 species of *Phalaenopsis* that are native to tropical China, Tibet, the Himalayas, throughout Southeast Asia, the islands of the South Pacific and into northern, tropical Australia. The center of their distribution is the Philippines and surrounding islands. In their native habitats orchids grow as epiphytes on trees and rocks and often are found at the edge of the forest at streamsides or along the seacoast.

Would that make it a better windowsill grower? The somewhat drafty environment in an average house provides good air circulation that epiphytes and streamside dwellers prefer. The temperatures in your house also vary enough to induce bloom. Manila cut flower growers have to force this flowerbud formation by taking their plants into the mountains to ensure the cool temperatures that cause orchids to produce a flower stalk.

How did these flowers come to grace our homes? *Phalaenopsis amabilis* (although it hadn't been named that yet) was first brought to the European world in 1750 by Georg Eberhard Rumpf, a physician who traveled to what is now called Sulawesi. Two years later Peter Osbeck brought back more of the same species from the island of Teneli (west of Java), where he saw that only princesses were allowed to wear the blossoms. In 1825 Carl Ludwig Blume, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Buitenzorg, Java, decided this exotic plant had been misnamed and created a new genus with the name *Phalaenopsis*.

The genus name is Greek for "resembling a night butterfly (or moth)" and reflects Blume's experience of mistaking the flowers for a flock of butterflies when he first saw them through his binoculars. In the Philippines the name for the orchid is "mariposa," the Spanish word for butterfly. Since 1940, intensive hybridizing has involved various species to get larger and longer-lasting flowers. It even has involved other orchid genera such as *Doritis*, yielding year-round bloom rather than just winter season bloom offered by *Phalaenopsis* species.

For more information on *Phalaenopsis* check out the following books from Helen Fowler Library: Noble, Mary. *You Can Grow Phalaenopsis Orchids*. Jacksonville, FL: the Author, 1971. SB 409.8 P47 N62 1971.

Soon, Teoh Eng. *Asian Orchids*. Singapore: Times Books International, 1980. QK 495 O64 T4650.

Sweet, Herman R. *The Genus Phalaenopsis*. [S.I.]: Orchid Digest, 1980. QK 495 O64 S933.

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. Can you give me some advice on growing birch trees successfully in Colorado?

A. Most birches thrive in moist, sandy soils that are rare in Colorado. The most prized species have white, papery bark, yet even under ideal conditions they are not long-lived trees. Nevertheless, paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), European white birch (*B. pendula*), river birch (*B. nigra*) and others are grown here. Success is easier in the older neighborhoods of cities and towns where clay soils have been cultivated longer and protection is afforded by established trees. East or north exposures generally provide more moist, moderate microclimates than those found on the west and south sides of buildings. Locating birch trees at low spots in the yard or in drainages from downspouts will help ensure adequate moisture. Winter watering during dry spells is recommended. The most common problems of birches in Colorado are iron chlorosis and bronze birch borer.

Q. I'd like to save my poinsettia to bloom again next December. How should I care for it?

A. Modern poinsettia cultivars are long-lasting. It's not unusual to have colorful bracts persisting months after the holiday season. Poinsettias grow best in bright, indirect light. To rebloom the plant, cut it back to about 8 inches in height in late March or early April. This may result in quite a stark, if not bare, specimen, but continue regular watering and you should see vigorous new growth by late May. During the summer, feel free to prune the plant to keep it compact and bushy, but stop pruning on Sept. 1. In June repot the plant into the next larger size of pot. Apply a balanced fertilizer every two or three weeks. The plant may go outdoors when the night temperatures average 55° F or higher. Poinsettias set buds and produce their colorful bracts as autumn nights lengthen. However, stray light at night, even from household lamps, can halt or delay the process. Keep your poinsettia in a dark room or cover it with a large box for 14 continuous hours each night starting Oct. 1 and ending when you see colored bracts form. Continue the fertilizer regime until the bracts begin coloring in mid-November. During the flowering season, poinsettias prefer six to eight hours of bright light daily; ideal temperatures are 70° to 75° F during the day and five or 10 degrees cooler at night.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.

An orchid for your Valentine

Exotic, tropical orchids have a reputation as difficult plants. However, many types are surprisingly easy to grow and flower without a greenhouse. The *Phalaenopsis*, or moth orchid, is one of the best candidates for indoor culture; its beautiful blossoms last for weeks and often months.

Species of the genus *Phalaenopsis* are epiphytic plants native to Asia, but hybrid plants now dominate the retail market. Most flowers are white, sometimes yellow, and often shades of pink to purple. There are standard and miniature types. Stripes or spots are found on the blossoms of some varieties.

The plants grow best in filtered or bright indirect light. Preferred temperatures are 60° to 65° F at night and 75° to 85° F during the day. *Phalaenopsis* thrive with relative humidity in the 55 to 75 percent range. This can be helped by grouping plants together or using pebble trays.

The roots need to be kept moist, yet overwatering and subsequent root rot is the biggest danger. Indoor gardeners often are intimidated by the bark in which orchids frequently are grown. It simply provides the aeration required in the root zone. Drenching the bark once or twice weekly is usually sufficient. Do not let the pot stand in water.

Monthly liquid fertilizer applications are recommended during periods of active growth.

Phalaenopsis like to be repotted every year or two, often back into the same pot if the roots have not spread too much. This is best done when new roots begin to appear. Take the plant from its pot and remove all bark and/or growing medium. Carefully remove any dead or mushy roots. Hold the plant in its pot and gently pack fresh bark or orchid medium around the remaining root system.



Phalaenopsis orchids in DBG's greenhouse.

streamside oases. Phillips' slide presentation will show these native western ecosystems and gardens inspired by them—those that combine native and adaptive plants with architectural elements that are colorful or subdued, controlled or lavish, depending upon the personalities of the places and the gardeners who tend them.

The vast and diverse ecosystems of the Southwest offer gardeners a plant palette every bit as rich and varied as that available to the more traditional eastern landscapers. These southwestern landscapes are rich models of the beauty that can be achieved through native and adaptive plant selections.

Phillips has 25 years' experience in landscape design. She is the owner and grower of a native plant farm in Veguita, N.M. Her books *Plants for Natural Gardens* and *Natural by Design: Beauty and Balance in Southwest Gardens* have earned her the title of southwestern gardening "doyenne" by many regional gardening professionals.

The series continues March 26 with Patrick Bowe, architect and garden designer; April 23, Mark Kane, executive garden editor for *Better Homes and Gardens*; Sept. 24, Katy Moss Warner, director of Horticulture and Environmental Initiatives at the Walt Disney World Resort; and Oct. 22, Hardie Newton, floral arranger.

Started in 1987, the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series is named in honor of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, whose generous support makes it possible to bring to Denver renowned speakers from across the country.

Lectures begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Helen Fowler Library will be open lecture evenings from 6 to 7 p.m., and gourmet coffee will be available from Espresso Affair.

Members may attend individual lectures at \$8 each or \$35 for the series of five lectures; nonmember fee is \$12 per lecture or \$45 for the series. For more information or to register, call 370-8020.

Employee of the month

Syd Glick, membership coordinator, was chosen as DBG's December employee of the month.

Syd has shown great commitment and loyalty to the Gardens for countless years. She has a knack for solving problems promptly and keeping them from becoming bigger. By promoting the Gardens at every chance she gets, she is a great ambassador. Congratulations, Syd!

"Picture a Great Garden"

Photo Show Reception for DBG members

TUESDAY, MARCH 18
7 TO 8:30 P.M.

JOHN C. MITCHELL II HALL
1005 YORK ST.

WINE & CHEESE WILL BE SERVED.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL 370-8018.

From your membership office

Valentine's Day puppet show

"My Magic Garden," a musical variety puppet show where bugs dance and sing, a tree comes to life and flowers grow on stage, will be Sunday, Feb. 9, in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Following the show, Valentine's Day refreshments will be served, and children will have the opportunity to create a special "bug" Valentine.

Reservations are limited and required. Please call 370-8018. Cost is \$3 per person at the door the day of the event. The show is recommended for children in preschool through sixth grade and adults of all ages.

Garden & Home Show discount

As a DBG member, if you go to the Colorado Garden & Home Show Feb. 1 to 9 at the Colorado Convention Center you will receive \$1 off admission when you present the coupon in last month's *Green Thumb News*. Be sure to stop by DBG's feature garden at the show: a recreation of a tropical rainforest.

Sharing member names

Members' names occasionally are exchanged with other museums or similar institutions that DBG thinks our members might be interested. However, if you do not want your name given out in this way, we can mark your record and keep it off all such lists. Call the membership office, 370-8029, with your member number and tell us NOT to share your name with any outside group. (If you have done this in the past, it is not necessary to do so again.)

Tributes

In memory of William Bolis

Ms. Helen P. Grant

In memory of Richard G. Daley

The Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

Mr. & Mrs. John Stamper

In memory of Charles E. Goodwin, Jr.

Ms. Sandra Brooks

Ms. Norma Davis

Ms. Shirley Hand

Ms. Paul Hultin

Ms. Angela Innes

Ms. Theresa Jane Collier

Mr. Theodore Jelsema

Mr. & Mrs. John Trigg

Strick It Rich Investment Club

Mr. Larry Taylor

Ms. Sharilyn Testa

In memory of Eugene Hooker

Ms. Virginia L. Wielgot

In memory of Marjorie Korby

Ms. Mary Hoffman

In memory of Robert Kosanke

The Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

In memory of Ramona Kuemmich

Professor & Mrs. Arthur Boardman

In memory of Loanelva Alice Wasson Lindsey

Ms. Helen Ashbaugh

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lindey

Mr. & Mrs. James Osborne

Mr. Chester Wasson

In honor of Jane Gelden & Adam Meyers

Mr. & Mrs. John Petro

In memory of Ms. Jean Thompson

Mr. John Dittiro

Mr. & Mrs. James Tesitor

In honor of a speedy recover for Mrs. Mary Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Appel

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons and Corporate members who began or renewed their memberships during the fourth quarter of 1996.

Four Seasons members

Ms. Sue Anschutz Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Baldwin
Mr. & Mrs. Rollin D. Barnard
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin J. Bumett
Mrs. Samuel Butler, Jr.
Dr. William A. Campbell
Mrs. Charla Cannon
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Collister
Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Connors
Mrs. Margaret Cunningham
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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Davis
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Kylberg Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin D. Trevor
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Mr. & Mrs. John L. Tyler
Honorable & Mrs. Wellington Webb

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Laughlin & Sons Excavating
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February

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Mark your calendar for a Photo Show reception.
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Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Coming Up:

February

- 1 *Understanding Front Range Soils*
* *Basics of Beekeeping*
Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
- 1, 2 Incredible Edibles: Chocolate, The Divine Food
- 2 Ikebana meeting
- 3 * *Controlling Slope*
- 4 Open House for Prospective Volunteers
- 5 *From Cuts to Creation*
- 6 *Mountain Survival Skills*
Strong Bones—The Foundation of a Great Garden symposium
- 7 Finishing Touches—Fleshing Out Your Gardening Picture symposium
Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 * *Propagation Workshop*
Fresh Cut Flower Care
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 9 Valentine's Day Celebration—for members only!
- 10 *Romance & Lace: A Heart Shaped Birch Wreath*
- 11 * *Rocky Mountain Horticulture I: Gardening Principles*
* *Terrific Trees for Home Gardens*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 13 * *The Smaller Rock Garden*
Botanical Illustration Show Preview—for members only!
Denver Rose Society meeting
- 14-23 Botanical Illustration Show
- 15 *Homeowners' Tree Biology*
- 16 *Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour*
- 17 * *Gardening for California Transplants*

- 19 Herb Society of America meeting
- 20 * *Hawks and Owls: Colorado's Soaring Beauties*
- 22 *Designing Your Herb Garden*
- 24 Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 25 Colorado Native Plant Society meeting
- 26 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Judith Phillips
- 27 African Violet Society meeting

March

- 1 Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 1, 2 Denver Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale
Herb Topiaries
Understanding Front Range Soils
* *Principles of Pruning*
Your First Water Garden: Small Containers
- 2 * *Bromeliad Workshop*
- 3 * *The Art of Natural Gardening*
* *Lawns, Low-water Grasses and Lawn Alternatives*
- 4 * *Outdoor Tour Guide Training*
* *Naturalist Guide Training*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 5 * *High Style! Creating the Regionally Evocative Garden*
- 6 *Intermediate-Advanced Bonsai: On the Rocks*
* *Perennials and Shrubs: Combining them Creatively*
- 7 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 *Creating a Realistic Dry Creek Bed*
High Country Judges workshop
American Iris Society, Region 20 meeting

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

March 1997



Irish garden designer reveals European style

The Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series continues Wednesday, March 26, as internationally recognized garden designer Patrick Bowe talks on "New Approaches to Garden Design in Europe." His lecture shows cutting-edge design concepts that affect gardens and gardeners on both sides of the Atlantic.

Recent approaches to garden design in Europe are influencing designers in America. Whether in Tuscany, Britain, France or Spain contemporary issues in laying out garden space for adult pleasure and children's play while harmonizing with nature are considered.

Bowe, architect, garden designer and garden historian, has been a gardening correspondent for the *Irish Independent* and has written many books including *The Gardens of Europe*, *The Gardens of Northern Ireland* and *Gardens of Portugal*. His latest book, *The Complete Kitchen Garden* reflects the vegetable gardening trend that is sweeping this country and abroad.

The Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series is named in honor of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, whose support since 1987 makes it possible to bring to Denver renowned speakers from across the country.

Lectures begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Helen Fowler Library will be open lecture evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. Member tickets are \$8, nonmember fee is \$12. To register, call 370-8020.



Take a tasty trip to the tropics

Denver Botanic Gardens' Incredible Edibles series continues with "Tropical Harvest—Fruits and Spices of the Tropics" Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The tropical regions of the world are home to many tasty and unusual foods and spices—from passion fruits and star fruits to cinnamon and cardamom. Sample these extraordinary foods, participate in a children's make-it and take-it activity and learn from experts about tropical plants.

On Saturday at 11 a.m., Andrew Horte, owner of Nature's High Pies, will present "Cashews, A Tropical Fruit." At noon Tom Lemieux, professor of biology at C.U., will discuss "Tropical Fruits and Spices of South America." John Lehdorff, *Boulder Daily Camera* food editor and director of American Pie Counsel, will highlight coconut and banana cream pies in his talk, "Tropical Pies," at 1 p.m.

On Sunday, Horte's talk on cashews will begin at 11 a.m. Lemieux will present his talk at noon. Lehdorff will tell about tropical pies at 1 p.m. Susan Permut, author and restaurant reviewer, will investigate tropical ingredients in "Discover Denver's Tropical Ingredients" at 2 p.m.

Local companies will offer free samples of tropical treats—some will be for sale. Wilds Oats / Alfalfa's will feature tropical teas and its new chocolate bars. A portion of the proceeds from these teas and chocolates go to the preservation of the tropical rainforest. Naked Foods Juice Company will provide its fresh juices. It also returns a percentage of its profits to save the rainforest. Specialty restaurants will provide free samples and food for purchase: Cafe Brazil, Bali Island, Mij-Bani and Just Java.

Future Incredible Edibles programs are "A Culinary Garden—Herbs, Flowers and Salads" April 6 and 7 and "Bread Basket—Regional Foods, Regional Grains" May 3 and 4. All programs are free to members and children 5 and younger; non-members pay only gate admission fee. Programs are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. For more information call 370-8041.

'Great Gardens' on display this month

Denver Botanic Gardens' "Picture a Great Garden" photo show will brighten John C. Mitchell II Hall with hundreds of colorful garden photos March 18 to 24.

Amateur photographers were busy all year scouting shots to enter in a contest—from colorful garden scenes to stunning black-and-white images. Photos were taken at DBG's four sites: York Street, Chatfield Arboretum, Mount Goliath and Walter S. Reed Botanical Garden. The top photo in the adult and youth categories garnered new Pentax cameras for the winners. Visitors will be able to vote for their favorite photos, and a people's choice award will be presented after the show. The people's choice winners will receive nature photographer John Fielder's latest book *Landscape: The Art of Seeing*.

The show is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is included in DBG's standard admission fee (free to DBG members). Members are invited to a private reception on March 18 (see page 7 for details). For more information call 370-8021.

Green Thumb News March 1997

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horticulture editor Ken Slump
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Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	370-8079
<i>Closed until late April.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

For the past several years Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University have cooperated to develop a program known as Plant Select®. Its purpose is to develop, promote and introduce new and unknown plants with outstanding ornamental appeal that are adapted to the Rocky Mountain region. All types of plants may be included, from trees and shrubs to perennials and annuals.

The Plant Select® program is continuing the long-term project of selecting and testing new plant selections for future introduction. This spring five underutilized plants will be promoted regionally as Plant Select® recommendations.

Plant Select® has gained new momentum thanks in no small part to DBG trustee and Plant Collections Committee Chair, Al Gerace, of Welby Gardens. Al has supplied the essential catalyst of green industry support for the program. Dr. Jim Klett, professor at C.S.U.'s Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, has been involved with the program since its inception. DBG has been ably represented on the program's committees by Plant Evaluation Coordinator Panayoti Kelaidis, Director of Horticulture Jim Henrich, Plant Propagator Nick Snakenberg and Plant Records Manager Ken Slump. Al, Jim Klett and Panayoti recently gave a standing-room-only presentation on the program at the regional ProGreen conference.

Watch for the announcement of the 1997 recommended plants in next month's Green Thumb News. Plant Select® will have its own booth at the DBG Plant and Book Sale in May, where the five plants will be sold and information on them provided. Area nurseries will be identifying the recommended plants with special labels beginning this spring.

Plant Select® provides a formal mechanism for an informal practice that has become an important tradition in gardening: that of exchanging and promoting the best plants among friends.

*Richard H. Daley
Executive Director*

Class dates change

Please note that "Perennials and Shrubs: Combining them Creatively" will be held Tuesdays, March 11 and 18. This is a change from the dates published in the course brochure. To register or for more information on any classes, call the registration office, 370-8020.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

The Construction Department is hard at work coordinating many projects this year, not the least of which is the tropical conservatory renovation, which starts this month. Throughout the year the mechanical system will be completely redone and the exhibits will take on a fresh look. One of the most interesting additions, a large, simulated banyan tree disguising an elevator, will take visitors to a second-level viewing area. The tree also will house the ventilation system for the building.

This renovation required the removal of all existing plants. However, the horticulture staff took cuttings of several dozen species and dug up many other specimens for replanting. Several worthy organizations such as Denver Public Schools, University of Colorado Department of Botany, Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisc., Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb., and Western Colorado Botanical Society in Grand Junction all received plants that were not needed after the renovation or were too large for us to store.

The construction phase of the project is set to conclude around Thanksgiving. Then the horticulture staff will begin the exciting job of replanting the interior.

Watch future issues of *Green Thumb News* for updates on DBG's improvement projects.

New '97 board members announced

Denver Botanic Gardens' Board of Trustees has approved five new members for 1997: Ms. Mollie Brunetti; Mr. D. Deane Hall Jr., former DBG Board member and secretary of the Board; Mr. Harold R. Logan Jr., executive vice president and chief financial officer of TransMontaigne Oil Company; Mr. Byron Grant Perry, regional manager of sales and services for United Airlines; and Mr. Larry E. Watson, president of Plants for Today and Tomorrow.

Also, the Board elected its 1997 officers and executive committee members. Elected president for 1997 is Mr. John B. Proffitt. Other officers and executive committee members for the year are Mr. Charles C. Cleworth, vice president; Mrs. Charles C. Gates, vice president; Mrs. John D. Woods, vice president; Mrs. Walter C. Emery, secretary; Mr. Walter D. Lowry, treasurer; and at-large members Mr. D. Deane Hall Jr., Mr. Donald J. Kany, Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin, Mrs. Kyla Thompson and Mr. Roy M. Whitehead.

Alpine plants for sale

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will hold its annual alpine plant sale on Saturday, April 12, in John C. Mitchell II Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fifteen plant growers from across the front range will offer choice and unusual rock garden plants as well as Colorado natives. Come early for the best selections. Demonstrations on rock gardening techniques and “how to” instructions will be given by chapter members during the sale.

The sale is included in general admission to DBG: free to members, \$3 for nonmembers. For more information call 794-3335.

Rose society brings sweet scents to DBG

The 26th annual Denver Rose Society Symposium, “The Making of a Colorado Rose Garden,” is planned for Saturday, April 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Workshops and presentations will cover a diverse range of topics of interest to those new at growing roses and to seasoned rosarians. Colorado experts Joan Truby, Jim Lindenmuth, Pat Allen, Lynn Green, John Starnes and Carolyn Fylling will cover all aspects of starting a rose garden from scratch, including soil preparation, rose selection, fertilization, disease and pest control, pruning, mulching and sensible watering.

Learn about the American Rose Society and how to join, and ask consulting rosarians for advice and helpful tips. Live potted rose bushes, organic rose fertilizers and other rose-related items will be for sale. A slide presentation in the afternoon will highlight new rose introductions and the “All America Rose Selection” winners.

The entire day of educational lectures and demonstrations is included in DBG’s general admission fees: free to members, \$3 for nonmembers. For more information call 423-9017.

African violets brighten Mitchell Hall

The Rocky Mountain African Violet Council will hold its 34th annual spring show and sale in DBG’s John C. Mitchell II Hall Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16.

This year’s theme is “Sing a Song of Violets.” Hundreds of plants will be shown in all colors and varieties. Experts will be on hand to offer growing advice.

The event is open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday and is included in DBG’s general admission fees: free to members, \$3 for nonmembers. For more information call 370-8187.

Cactus show at DBG

The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society will hold its annual show and sale March 29 and 30 in Mitchell Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Discover the exciting diversity of cacti and succulents—from the most common to the truly exotic. This year’s sale will feature more winter hardy plants for Colorado than ever before. Experts will be on hand to answer questions and present free mini-workshops, and visitors can shop for books, mugs, T-shirts, potting soil and containers for cacti and succulents. Door prizes will be given away each hour.

Plants will be judged for the show; if you would like to enter the competition, bring your’s to Mitchell Hall March 28 from 1 to 8 p.m.

The show and sale is included in DBG’s general admission fees: free to members, \$3 for nonmembers. For more information call 989-6998.

Crested Butte Wildflower Tour

Save July 11 to 14 for DBG’s sixth annual wildflower tour.

Because of its unparalleled scenery and wonderful wildflower variety, we are returning to Crested Butte, Colorado!

Look for details and the registration form in April’s *Green Thumb News*.

Learn about sex in your garden

Author and gardener Angela Overly will present a fun, light-hearted yet factual look at seduction and passion in the garden on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Did you know that the bright blooms in your garden are advertisements for sex? Overly will give a clear and concise perusal of the reproductive processes of garden plants and their relationships to their various propagators—with plenty of humor and absurdity.

Overly started drawing flowers while growing up in England. She worked in advertising design in London, New York and San Francisco before settling in Colorado with her husband. She has written for the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and *Fine Gardening* magazine. She currently is the principal instructor for the Gardens’ School of Botanical Illustration. Among the many awards she has received is the Harriet De Waele Puckett Award for creativity from the Garden Club of America in 1995. Angela will autograph copies of her book, *Sex in Your Garden*, after the talk.

Cost is \$6 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. For more information or to register, call 370-8020.

Employee of the month

Nick Snakenberg, plant propagator at DBG, was honored as January’s employee of the month. Nick demonstrates excellence in just about all the criteria used to select this award. He shows great initiative, organizational skills and careful use of resources as DBG’s grower. He is well known as a cheerful source of information and is one of the best contributors to DBG through his work on many committees. Congratulations, Nick.

Hurry spring by forcing tree and shrub branches

Can't wait for the scents and colors of spring? Get a jump on the season by pruning branches from your spring flowering trees and shrubs and forcing them indoors now. Just a few can make a breathtaking display.

Look for stems that are angular or artfully curved—they're easier to arrange. Choose those with lots of flower buds. Of course, it's wise to select branches that sound pruning practices would dictate should be removed anyway, such as competing limbs or ones that detract from the overall shape of the plant.

Use sharp pruners. Take the branches indoors and place them in a bucket of warm water. A bit of bleach added to the water (1/2 teaspoon of bleach per quart of water) will help prevent the development of algae and microorganisms. Change the water every few days.

As the buds swell, recut the stems and arrange them in a suitable container. Most flowers will open in about two to three weeks. Forsythia, pussy willow, flowering quince, redbud and flowering plum are ideal candidates.

Timely Tip

Water your yards and gardens if weather has been warm and dry. March winds can desiccate plant tissues causing dieback and even plant death when there is insufficient soil moisture for the roots to absorb. If there have been four or more weeks without snow cover, choose a morning with a temperature above 40° F and water deeply.

Plant donations needed for spring sale

The Garden Grown Division is looking for plant donations to sell at the Plant and Book Sale in May. You may leave potted divisions and seedlings at DBG's main entrance gate, 1005 York St. Please label the plants as completely as possible with name, color, height, bloom time or any other information you have.

Volunteers also are needed to help pot up plants from DBG's beds. Garden Grown volunteers meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon behind DBG's production greenhouses. Bring your gloves, trowels, scissors or pruning shears, and help contribute to the sale. For more information call Pat Miller, 232-6564, or Marilyn Moore, 388-6934.

DBG water gardener featured on TV

Last summer Joe Tomocik, curator of DBG's Water Gardens, flew to Pennsylvania to tape a segment on container water gardening for "Home Matters" on the Discovery Channel. His 10-minute segment will be shown this month—March 13 at 1 p.m. If you miss the show, Helen Fowler Library has a tape of Tomocik's segment available for check-out.

Tomocik is the primary author of *American Garden Guides: Water Gardening*, one of a 12-part series. Each issue of this gardening series is authored by botanical garden or arboretum staff and features regional insights.



PLANTS FROM THE PAGES OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Springtime in the Alps at DBG

Right now DBG's Rock Alpine Garden is showing us a little bit of European springtime. 'Snow Queen' winter heath (*Erica carnea* 'Snow Queen') is blooming in the Rock Alpine Garden along the upper path near the top of the waterfall. It is common in many of the mountains of Europe including the Alps and the Dolomites.

There it grows as a low, shrubby woodland plant with almost needle-shaped evergreen leaves. It also grows in pastures and on sunny slopes, screes and rocky heaths. Its companion plants there are rhododendrons, pines and daphnes. It is perfectly at home on alkaline soils (the Dolomites are limestone) and is one of the first plants to bloom after snowmelt in the mountains.

The white flowers bloom at the ends of the branches in the shape of elongated bells. This phenomenon of blooming as the snow clears in the mountains means that it blooms for us here at DBG all through the winter. In Europe it also is considered an excellent honey plant. Mountain dwellers move their bee hives to be near the plants when they bloom in April and June.

In Denver it provides local bees with a food source on those sunny 60-degree days during the winter. It has long been considered a classic rock

garden plant and is easy to grow in the Front Range with a little extra watering and perhaps a little shade.

For further reading on heathers and other classic rock garden plants check out these books in Helen Fowler Library:

Bacon, Lionel. *Mountain Flower Holidays in Europe*. St. Johns, Woking, Surrey: Alpine Garden Society, 1979. QK 297 B3466.

Bean, W.J. *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*. 8th ed. London: John Murray, 1973. QK 306 B4 1973.

Bohm, Cestmir. *Rock Garden Flowers*. London: Hamlyn, 1970. SB 459 B645.

Correvon, Henry & Philippe Robert. *The Alpine Flora*. Geneva: Atar, [1911?] QK 297 C677.

Foster, Raymond. *Rock Garden & Alpine Plants*. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1982. SB 421 F6783.

Hegi, Gustav. *Alpine Flowers*. London: Blackie & Son, 1930. QK 297 H444.

Kolaga, Walter A. *All About Rock Gardens and Plants*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1966. SB 459 K6.

Schacht, Wilhelm. *Rock Gardens and Their Plants*. London: Blandford Press, 1963. SB 459 S352 1963.

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. Would you explain "hardiness zones" to me?

A. Hardiness zones are one of the guides that horticulturists employ to determine if a particular kind of plant is likely to survive in an area outside its native range. Plant species are assigned to zones based on the lowest temperatures experienced throughout a region. There are several such systems; the most familiar is probably the USDA scheme in which each zone is separated by 10° F increments. For example, Denver is usually considered to be in USDA Hardiness Zone 5, designated for areas with lowest annual temperatures between -20° to -10° F. (Some USDA maps further subdivide each zone by two 5° increments called "a" and "b.") The minimum temperature of a given locality is not the only factor affecting a plant's ability to survive, however, so other criteria should be considered. Some of these are soil type, moisture, exposure to sun and wind, relative humidity, snow cover and so forth. Nevertheless, a plant species' hardiness designation remains one of the best initial guides for selection. (A colored USDA hardiness zone map is on display in Helen Fowler Library.)

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.

USDA Hardiness Zones

Zone 1: below -50° F
 Zone 2: -50 to -40° F
 Zone 3: -40 to -30° F
 Zone 4: -30 to -20° F
 Zone 5: -20 to -10° F
 Zone 6: -10 to 0° F
 Zone 7: 0 to 10° F
 Zone 8: 10 to 20° F
 Zone 9: 20 to 30° F
 Zone 10: 30 to 40° F

Meet Dr. Green!

Here are some of the numerous DBG staff that address plant and gardening questions from the public and take turns answering the "Dr. Green" plant information help line. The employees in this photograph share more than 350 years of education and experience in the fields of horticulture, botany and related topics.



Start your garden seeds now

If you haven't already done so, this is a great time to start plants from seed for spring's flower and vegetable gardens. There are many advantages to growing your own transplants from seed. You control which chemicals are applied, and with an early start you'll have bigger and better seedlings to set out. Also, you'll satisfy the need to garden several weeks before it's warm enough to work outdoors! But the biggest advantage of growing your own plants is the huge variety you can grow that may not be available in your local garden center.

When starting plants from seed, it helps to know a little about the species you are growing. The plant's natural habitat may tell you about requirements the seeds need to grow. Some seeds need light to germinate while others require darkness. Some seeds also need a cool treatment known as stratification to overcome seed dormancy. Visit DBG's Helen Fowler Library to find many excellent books on growing plants from seed and any special treatments they require.

Seeds need both oxygen and moisture to germinate, so choose a medium that is light and airy. Find a clean, shallow pot or container and fill it about 2 inches deep with growing medium. Tamp it lightly so tiny seeds will not fall into crevices. Scatter the seeds on the soil surface. If the seeds you are starting require light to germinate (most do not), or if the seeds are tiny, press them into the medium. Larger seeds need to be covered. A rule of thumb is to cover the seed to a depth of three times its diameter.

Next, water the seeds by standing the container in water to avoid seed disturbance that can be caused by overhead watering. When the soil surface is moist remove from the watering container, cover the pot with plastic to retain humidity and place it in a warm location. As soon as you see seedlings poking their heads through the surface, move the container to a bright window (avoid direct sunlight) or place it under a "grow light." When the seedlings have two or three true leaves they may be transplanted to cell packs or small individual pots.

Starting your own seedlings is very rewarding. Suitable types for beginners include tomato, pepper, cabbage, dahlia, zinnia, coreopsis, marigold, coleus and cosmos.

Nick Snakenberg
 DBG Plant Propagator

Plant Sale Preview Party coming up!

Get the first pick of plants and books—Italian style—at Denver Botanic Gardens' Plant Sale Preview Party Thursday, May 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. You'll be able to shop the night away while listening to music and enjoying refreshments. This year's Italian theme is sure to satisfy your appetite. Cost is \$50 per person. Watch April's *Green Thumb News* for registration information.

Tributes

In memory of Mr. Frank B. Larcom

Mrs. Lucile C. Larcom

In memory of Robert Walsh Sr.

Ms. Judith Waldren

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. T.B. Washburne

Ms. Virginia Westgaard

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks those who began or renewed their memberships during the fourth quarter of 1996 at supporting levels.

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From your membership office

A behind-the-scenes adventure!

Arbor Circle, Botanist Club, Conservator's Society and Four Seasons members are invited to a behind-the-scenes look at DBG's greenhouses Thursday, April 17. Refreshments and music are included. Tour times are 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required and limited. Call 370-8018.

Member photo show reception

DBG members are invited to attend a members-only reception of the "Picture a Great Garden" photo show Tuesday, March 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

You can enjoy wine and cheese as you browse the hundreds of colorful photos entered in the contest and take a first look at the winning entries. A flute and harp duo, Flarp, will provide entertainment. Reservations are required and limited. Call 370-8018 by March 14.

Bird abode contest returns to DBG

It's time to sign up for Denver Botanic Gardens' third annual BirdHaus Competition. Are you an architect, landscape architect or designer? A carpenter, artist or student? An ornithologist? Do you know how to fly? Test your originality, whimsy, craftsmanship, functionality, practicality or humor. Everyone can enter—all ages, individuals or teams. Register to enter by May 22.

Entry Form

No registration fee is required. I (We) understand the entry becomes the property of Denver Botanic Gardens. I (We) plan to submit one entry to the BirdHaus Competition and agree to comply with its published conditions and requirements. Call 370-8055 for complete guidelines.

Entry Title

Description

Entry displayed in the following way:

indoors: ☐ on a pedestal ☐ hanging ☐ self-supported
outdoors: ☐ on a pedestal ☐ hanging ☐ self-supported

Name _____ Age ☐ 12 and younger ☐ Adult

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Mail or fax to:

BirdHaus Competition
Denver Botanic Gardens 909 York Street Denver, CO 80206-3799 Fax (303) 331-4013

'Sunflowers and Mums' brighten Plant Sale

"Sunflowers and Mums," a painting by Barbara Deardorff, was selected for DBG's 1997 Plant and Book Sale poster.

The vibrantly colorful 28-inch by 32-inch oil painting is a still life with a cobalt-blue vase holding yellow sunflowers and magenta mums. A delicately clear vase and a few pieces of fruit sit nearby. Light refraction and shadows throughout the painting add to its depth.

Deardorff has a passion for color in floral still life and landscape paintings, and it comes bounding from the canvas. She has studied at the Colorado Institute of Art and the Art Students League of Denver as well as at various workshops through the years. Her works have been shown in many juried shows including Views of the West in Denver in 1994, 1995 and 1996, and Art Students League Annual Show in 1994 and 1995. Her works are shown in Colorado galleries.

"Sunflowers and Mums" was chosen from more than 120 entries. The painting will be auctioned May 8 at this year's Plant Sale Preview Party. Decorator posters with the "Sunflowers and Mums" image will be sold at the Plant and Book Sale May 9 and 10, and in the DBG Gift Shop after the sale.



"Sunflowers and Mums"

March

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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Start your garden seeds indoors now.

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Plant Sale Preview Party takes on an Italian theme.

page 6

BirdHaus Competition returns to DBG this summer.

page 7

Denver Botanic Gardens

909 York Street

Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Denver, CO

Permit No. 205

Coming Up:

March

- 1 Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 1, 2 Denver Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale
Herb Topiaries
Understanding Front Range Soils
** Principles of Pruning*
Your First Water Garden: Small Containers
- 2 ** Bromeliad Workshop*
- 3 ** The Art of Natural Gardening*
** Lawns, Low-water Grasses and Lawn Alternatives*
- 4 ** Outdoor Tour Guide Training*
** Naturalist Guide Training*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 5 ** High Style! Creating the Regionally Evocative Garden*
- 6 *Intermediate-Advanced Bonsai: On the Rocks*
** Perennials and Shrubs: Combining them Creatively*
- 7 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 *Creating a Realistic Dry Creek Bed*
High Country Judges workshop
American Iris Society, Region 20 meeting
- 8,9 Incredible Edibles: Tropical Harvest—Fruits and Spices
- 10 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 11 ** Never Fail Perennials*
Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society meeting
- 12 ** Mount Goliath Guide Training*
- 13 Denver Rose Society meeting
- 14 ** Introduction to Horticultural Therapy*

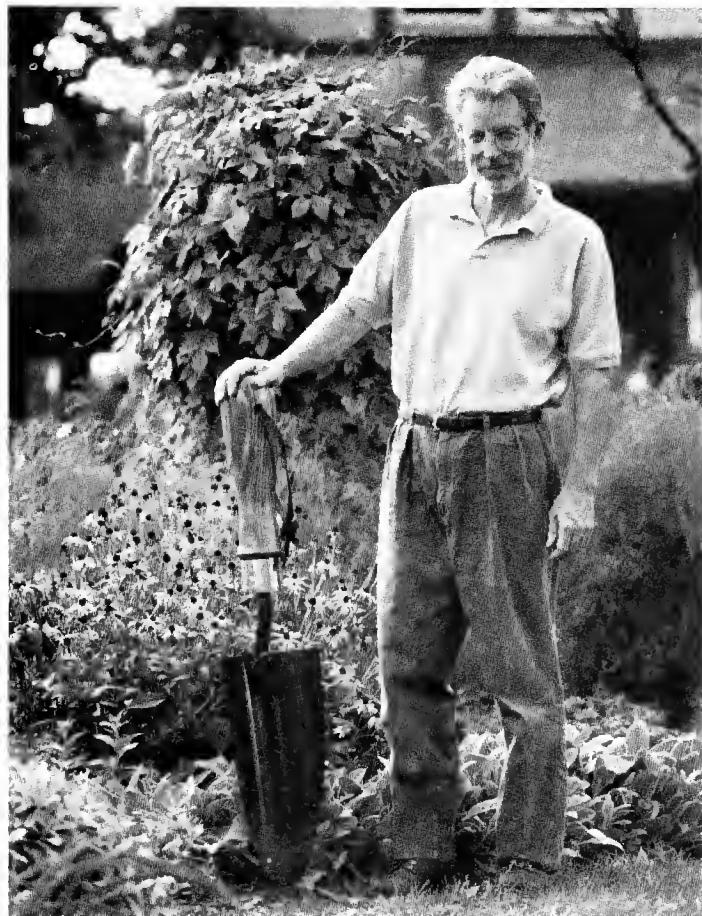
- 15 ** Birds & Berries: Landscaping for Wildlife*
Tools for Easier Gardening Workshop
- 15,16 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Spring Show & Sale
- 16 *Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tours*
Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 17 ** The Western Perennial Border*
- 18 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
- 18-24 "Picture a Great Garden" Photo Show
- 19 Herb Society of America meeting
North American Rock Garden Society meeting
- 20 ** Romantic Roses*
** Water-Wise Flower Garden*
- 22 ** The Easy Orchid*
** From Angelica to Yarrow: The Basics of Growing Herbs*
How to Train Your Grapevine
** Water Gardening for Beginners*
- 24 ** Renovating the Landscape for Lower Maintenance*
Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 25 *Hardy Cacti & Succulents for Western-Style Gardens*
Colorado Native Plant Society meeting
- 26 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Patrick Bowe
- 27 ** Intermediate Bonsai: A Maple Grove*
African Violet Society of Denver meeting
Ikebana International meeting
- 29 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
- 29,30 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

April 1997



Mark Kane shows off a garden trowel he made.

Visit some great American gardens

Mark Kane, executive garden editor for *Better Homes and Gardens*, brings "Visits to Great American Gardens" to DBG Wednesday, April 23. You'll see true gardeners who have created a personal sense of style and look at some of the most unusual, creatively designed private gardens in America. You'll learn that creating a great garden needs to be a personal pleasure.

Kane is considered one of the country's top gardening photojournalists who seeks out and photographs America's most beautiful and interesting gardens. Story ideas for *Better Homes and Gardens* spring from his travels around the country talking to top nurseries and landscapers, testing the newest plant varieties and photographing hundreds of the best American gardens.

Kane was a founding editor of *Fine Gardening* and later became its editor-in-chief. He also served as founding editor-in-chief of *Garden Gate*. His writing has appeared in the respected *Taylor's Guide Gardening* series, and his book, *The Beckoning Path*, examines a life-long garden and principles of garden design.

The Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series, started in 1987, is named in honor of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, whose generous support makes it possible to bring renowned speakers to the Gardens.

Lectures begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Helen Fowler Library will be open from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost for members is \$8; nonmember fee is \$12. Call 370-8020 to reserve your seat now.

Learn about incredible herbs and flowers

Discover "A Culinary Garden—Herbs, Flowers and Salads," and get started on your own kitchen garden at the next "Incredible Edibles" program Sunday and Monday, April 6 and 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Visitors can learn all about herbs, flowers and salads while they view products and listen to expert talks. Specialty sponsors include Harlequin's Market, a new Boulder garden center specializing in herbs, old garden roses and regionally adapted plants; Tamilou Touhey, a small-scale organic farm specializing in creating sacred spaces; Rabbit Shadow Farms, growers of herbs, scented geraniums and herbal topiaries; Garden Gate Herbs & Collectibles, featuring "shabby, chic and primitive" antique garden ornaments; The Fresh Herb Company, supplier to restaurants and grocery trade of salad greens, cut flowers and herb plants; The Secret Garden, offering culinary and herbal items; and Brown Bag Inc., a company that highlights herbs.

Special talks for the program feature Linda Brawnier, owner of Harlequin's Market, who will share "Culinary Herbs and their Medicinal Value"; Tamilou Touhey, who will talk about "Growing Organic Herbs"; Karen Winans-Morgan, president of the Herb Society of America, Rocky Mountain Unit, who will demonstrate "Culinary Uses for Herbs and Tomatoes"; and Shawn Kelly, chef and owner of Aubergine Cafe, who will speak on "Cooking with Colorado Herbs." Children's activities will round out the day.

On May 3 and 4 learn about "The Bread Basket—Regional Foods, Regional Grains," while sampling many types of breads, pastas and other grains from around the world. Pasta Jay's Italian Restaurant, Chao-Praya Thai Restaurant and Campagna Bakers are just a few businesses that will offer samples. Speakers will talk about different grains and highlight human and plant interactions.

All programs are free to Denver Botanic Gardens members; nonmembers pay only gate admission. No reservations are needed. For more information call 370-8041.

Green Thumb News April 1997

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horticulture editor Ken Slump
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Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 370-8079
Closed until early May.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8003
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

As Spring arrives and we all are reminded of the Earth's renewal, we are well at work renewing and enhancing Denver Botanic Gardens with new construction projects. By the time you read this, we will have three projects either underway or about to begin and one nearing completion.

The Gift Shop, which has had a wonderful national reputation among all museum shops for many years, will show off an even wider array of high-quality items and plants. Of course, the proceeds continue to support all the programs at the Gardens, so your patronage is most appreciated by all of us.

The parking lot, depending on the spring weather, should be under construction and probably will be done in the next six to eight weeks, depending on exactly when it is started. While the construction is a bit disruptive, when it is completed we will have doubled our parking capacity, making us far more convenient for our visitors and a much better neighbor to the nearby residents.

The Conservatory is closed, and during the summer we will announce an opening date.

The Romantic Gardens should be under construction soon, and these will add enormously to our outdoor displays beginning next spring.

In the meantime, there is much, much to enjoy at the Gardens. The O'Fallon Perennial Walk installed last summer will really be a show place this year. The Water-Smart Garden, now only two years old, is truly glorious by mid- to late-spring and, along with the Perennial Walk, is a fabulous place to see new plants and learn new techniques for your own garden.

The Rock Alpine Garden just keeps getting better, with dozens of new plants added each year, so don't miss it this spring when it is at its glory.

As we all look forward to the renewal of spring, especially this year with our new projects, I hope you will make a special effort to stop by and see all that is "growing on" here at DBG!

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

The tropical conservatory is on its way to becoming a new, exciting display. Plant removal has been completed and contractors are beginning installation of a new heating and ventilating system that includes improved temperature and humidity controls. The installation of an elevator also has begun.

You may soon notice some changes in the way York and Josephine streets look. Not to worry... we planned it that way! The modifications to the street will make way for a larger parking lot that will double the size of our current space. Work on the parking lot portion of this project will be starting very soon.

Construction of our beautiful new Romantic Gardens is currently underway, with excavation and concrete forming in progress.

Last, but certainly not least, the Gift Shop soon will reopen. Be sure to stop by and check out the expanded space and the many new offerings, including live plants.

Evenson's mushroom book on sale soon

Chock-full of beautiful color photographs of many of Colorado's wild mushrooms, a new book, *Mushrooms of Colorado and the Southern Rocky Mountains*, will be available in May. Its author, Vera Evenson, Associate Curator of DBG's Herbarium of Fungi, searched Colorado from tundra to prairie, from barnyard to backyard looking for representatives of the amazing array of fungi that can be found in this region.

Written for anyone interested in mushrooms and their natural history, this beautiful field guide features more than 180 photos of all kinds of mushrooms. From morels and inky caps to puffballs and bird's nest fungi, Evenson captured all of them as they grew in their natural habitats. Each specimen shown is preserved as a voucher in the Herbarium of Fungi and will be available for future study by interested mycologists.

The basics of mushroom structure, life cycles and habitats are combined with keys, clues and beautiful black-and-white illustrations by Marjorie Leggitt. An extensive chapter addresses mushroom poisoning, along with tips on foraging for amateurs. DBG and its Research Department, the Denver Museum of Natural History and Westcliffe Publishers cooperated in the publication of the book. It will be for sale in DBG's Gift Shop when it reopens for \$25 (less your member's 10 percent discount).

Sensory garden guide training begins

The sun shines brightly on a newly opened red tulip, the air is filled with the aroma of violas, and bird songs are heard everywhere. It's springtime and a time of discovery in the sensory garden at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center at Denver Botanic Gardens. This special garden shows off its finery all summer long for special groups throughout the Denver metro area. A core of volunteer sensory guides lead tours Tuesdays and Fridays from June through September for people in long-term care, therapy or rehabilitation programs.

Last year the award-winning volunteer guides conducted 68 tours and reached more than 750 people throughout the summer. Each participant gets a chance to explore the garden, be outdoors and enjoy the change of seasons, while on a tailor-made tour. Those on tours often leave with a bouquet of snapdragons, lamb's ears and mint. Third-year guide Erica Holloway will attest, the program is very gratifying.

"At first I was nervous to do the tours, but now I feel very comfortable. What's fun is you get wonderful nonverbal responses from the participants who are severely disabled, such as those from Wheat Ridge Regional Center. When they arrive they are very quiet, but once the tour gets going and they are smelling and feeling different plants, they begin reacting in lots of different ways," said Holloway.

Clients from Wheat Ridge Regional Center, a state-run facility serving the profoundly disabled, have been visiting this intimate garden for the past five years. Bill Thompson, a recreation therapist at the facility, believes his clients get the opportunity to receive a true garden experience on the tour.

"Developmentally, most of the people we bring are less than a 1-year-old, so the sensory stimulation of the garden is perfect for them," Thompson said. "While going through a tour, different people will react to different things. Some will squint their eyes at a pungent smell of basil, while others will laugh when their hands are tickled with lamb's ears."

Peggy Melfi, chairperson of the sensory guides, has conducted tours for this particular group many times through the years and knows the rewards of such a tour.

"To get any reaction from someone who is nonverbal and severely disabled is really wonderful," Melfi said. "Giving sensory tours is one of the most rewarding things I do. It is unbelievably gratifying to get a response from one of the participants when they touch a soft furry leaf or hear a bird song nearby. If the tour participants glean even a fraction from the tours of what I feel and receive, then they are getting a lot," said Melfi.

New sensory guide training begins May 2. Graduates of the class will begin sharing the joys of the garden this summer. For more information or to sign up, call 370-8020.

*Christine Kramer
Horticultural Therapy Assistant*

Employee of the Month

Dina Pownell, Gift Shop manager, was voted February's employee of the month by her co-workers. Dina is honored for her outstanding job performance and commitment during Blossoms of Light. She put in many long hours and kept a bright and positive attitude, even when problems arose. Congratulations, Dina.

Dawn Chorus planned at the Arboretum

Looking for something to do on a lark? Rise and shine, you early bird, and join the fun of the International Dawn Chorus Day. This is not a human choir performance or some other man-made musical. Rather, it's a day dedicated to the appreciation of spring songs chirped and rasped by feathered friends. People all over the world will flock together at 5:45 a.m. Sunday, May 4, to herald in the day with song birds.

The event started 13 years ago in England. Its popularity has spread worldwide to countries such as Spain, Kenya and Israel. This year will be Colorado's fifth Dawn Chorus Day sponsored by Colorado Urban Wildlife Partnership.

Chatfield Arboretum is one of 16 sites in Colorado that offers a guided walk with a professional naturalist while noting bird songs and observations. You need not be a "birder" to participate. Simply come to the Arboretum willing to listen and look. Bring binoculars if you have them. The hike begins at exactly 6 a.m. and continues for approximately two hours. There is no cost to participate but registration is requested; call 370-8020 to reserve your spot. For more information call Marsha Staughton, 973-3705.

Wildflower week returns to DBG

Plans are underway again this year for "Celebrate Wildflowers" week at Denver Botanic Gardens May 19 to 23. The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service will join DBG in the Lobby Court and feature displays about wildflowers in Colorado. A free coloring book will showcase wildflowers from the sagebrush. Watch next month's *Green Thumb News* for more information.

Perennial workshop coming in June

Internationally recognized designer Robin Williams and plantsman Roy Lancaster join regional expert Lauren Springer for a day of gardening insights on Monday, June 16. Watch next month's *Green Thumb News* or call 370-8020 for more information.

Plant Select® recommends plants for the region

With the goals of expanding the plant palette and endorsing underutilized yet well-adapted plants for the region, Plant Select®, the cooperative plant introduction program administered by Colorado State University and Denver Botanic Gardens, is showcasing a 1997 slate of five recommendations to launch a plant promotion program. The species and cultivars were carefully chosen to suit a variety of garden roles.

Turkish veronica (*Veronica liwanensis*) is a perennial groundcover that forms a fine-textured evergreen mat. From April to June, small cobalt-blue flowers cover the plant.

Two other recommended herbaceous perennials are well-suited to Water-Smart landscapes. Silver sage (*Salvia argentea*) is valued for its low-growing, large leaves that are covered by silky white hairs. Its white flowers are borne on candelabra-like stems in early summer. For color in later summer, sunset hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*) sports delicate, apricot-orange shaded blossoms from August to frost.

Woody plants are represented in the 1997 recommendations by two semi-evergreen shrubs. Alleghany viburnum (*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* 'Alleghany') is a tall growing stately shrub with four season interest. The large, richly textured foliage is complimented by white flowers

and red fruit as summer progresses to autumn. Carol Mackie daphne (*Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie') forms a symmetrical shrub with narrow foliage edged in cream. It produces masses of pale pink flowers in spring, and occasionally later in the season, that are irresistibly fragrant.

This season area nurseries and garden centers will be marketing the 1997 recommendations with distinctive Plant Select® labels identifying them. There also will be a special booth at the DBG Plant and Book Sale, where you may learn more about these plants and purchase them.



What's the problem?

This affliction, commonly known as "lawnmower-itis" or "tractor blight" is not a true disease, but a preventable condition caused when mowers or trimmers injure the thin bark of young trees.



Silver Sage (*Salvia argentea*)

Arbor Day offers a time to reflect on trees

In Colorado Arbor Day is celebrated the third Friday in April (this year April 18). The day is a good time to reflect on how much trees add to the quality of our lives. Here, Chatfield Arboretum staff members relate favorite tree memories.

Ryan Proctor spent countless childhood hours in Iowa playing in a huge red oak tree. The tree served as a "homebase" for many kids' games, and the thick lower branches became diving boards into the Cedar River. He has very fond memories of endless summer afternoons spent in the company of that old red oak.

Marsha Staughton recalls towering tulip trees that grew in her Pennsylvania neighborhood. When the huge blooms opened each year, she wished she could pick them, but they were always out of reach. She chose to hide in a grove of these trees one afternoon "running away" from home.

Adam Lucas grew up in Ohio, so the buckeye is his favorite tree. He spent many hours playing in a large buckeye, among many large trees in his great grandmother's backyard. The branching structure is perfect for climbing—and unfortunately, an accident is associated with his memory—but it didn't change his feelings for this tree.

Danni Hansen was lucky enough to have a forest around her home in Redding, Calif. A particular grove of Pacific dogwoods piqued her childhood curiosity. Fear of the dark grove turned to a magical appeal after a dream she had revealed a fairy cottage inside the grove.

My memory is one of being deprived of trees. Before my four months in Antarctica were up, I was beginning to imagine leaves blowing across the desolate ice surfaces. I missed the sound of the wind being filtered through treetops instead of screaming unimpeded down the valleys. But most of all, I remember when the plane hatch was opened after coming off the ice and landing in New Zealand. The smell of "green" flooded the plane. Everyone laughed with the sheer joy of returning to the world of abundant life.

All these memories are alike in their vividness. Trees are so closely intertwined with our lives that sometimes we take them for granted. They add a richness that cannot be replaced. Take a moment this Arbor Day to remember!

Kathy Kircher
Chatfield Arboretum



Denver Botanic Gardens 1997 Plant & Book Sale

Leaves of green and leaves of books tempt Plant and Book Sale shoppers

Spring is leafing out all around us, urging Denver gardeners to dig in and begin their spring planting plans. Visiting DBG's annual Plant and Book Sale is high on their list of must-do's, therefore the dates of May 9 and 10 already are circled on many Denver calendars.

With more than a quarter million plants on sale and plenty of experts available to offer tips, the Plant and Book Sale provides the opportunity to fulfill all one's planting needs—from bonsai to water plants—in a single convenient location. New and unusual plants, as well as tried and true favorites, will tempt both novice and experienced gardeners at this 48th annual event.

For those who enjoy spending their leisure time leafing through a good book or watching a movie, thousands of books, magazines and videocassettes will be on sale in the indoor classrooms. Cookbooks, gardening manuals, romances, suspense novels and children's subjects will be among the volumes on sale for a fraction of their original cost. Proceeds from the book sale are used to purchase new books for the botanical and horticultural collections of Helen Fowler Library.

Also available for purchase will be the official plant sale T-shirt and poster. This year's poster features the work of Barbara Deardorff. Brilliant hues characterize this oil painting of a blue vase filled with sunflowers and chrysanthemums. Barbara will be on hand to sign posters throughout both days. As always, mouth-watering treats from Pour la France! will be on sale.

Navigating the plant sale takes no special talent. However, several tips can make the shopping experience more pleasurable. First, ride the shuttlebus, since parking at the Gardens is limited. Park your car at the Target store in Glendale, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and enjoy a free doubledecker bus ride to the sale. Leave the driving, and the traffic congestion, to others.

Second, if you intend to make more than a few purchases, bring a wagon. Although grocery carts will be available to transport selections, their number is limited. Third, be aware that the main checkout has been moved to the north side of the Gardens. Finally, take advantage of the plant valets. After making large purchases, leave your plants with the plant valets, take the shuttle back to your car, then return to the curb where the valets will load your purchases for you.

The plant sale is open to the general public from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Members, seniors, volunteers and physically challenged people are invited to shop early, from 8:30 to 10 a.m., and avoid the crowds. DBG members need only show their cards to receive a 10 percent discount on all purchases. Memberships may be purchased at the sale.

To be among the first to examine and purchase plants, attend the Preview Party, "An Italian Evening in the Gardens," on May 8. Listen to the strains of strolling musicians while enjoying Italian cuisine catered by Le Petit Gourmet. Highlighting the evening will be a silent auction of Barbara Deardorff's "Sunflowers and Mums" painting. The by-invitation-only event is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Find your invitation on the back side.) New to the Preview Party this year is the patron level ticket for \$100. Patrons will be admitted to the sale at 5 p.m., one-half hour early. They'll receive special parking spots, the aid of a shopping assistant and an invitation to a special patron's reception two weeks before the sale.

For more information about the Plant and Book Sale, call 370-8091.

With all that is planned for the 1997 Plant and Book Sale, Denver can say, "I'd rather be shopping at DBG!"

Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10



Members shop early from 8:30 to 10 a.m.



Open to general public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Free admission



Members save 10% at check-out



Free off-site parking, free shuttle



More than 250,000 plants



Nearly 20,000 books and magazines



Commemorative T-shirts and posters



Experts on-hand to give planting advice



Gala Preview Party is first chance to shop

Plant and Book Sale divisions sprout new ideas, varieties

What's sprouting at the 1997 Plant and Book Sale? Early reports promise the event will be blossoming with some of the most exciting specimens ever.

Rock Alpine selections reflect diversity

A visit to the Rock Alpine Division will provide a profusion of solutions for dry, difficult areas. Unusual plants that thrive in such conditions will be one focus. Look for the new, brightly colored hardy ice plant *Osteospermum* and its South African relative *Delosperma*. Dryland phloxes, tiny dianthus and even a hardy gazania are all willing to bake in the noonday sun. Plants requiring shade also will be available.

Traditional rock garden plants, some new varieties and troughs will be offered. Due to the variety of plants available, many species are not carried in large quantities—come early for the best selection, but be prepared to discover some interesting substitutes.

A Plant Sale sampler

Several other items the astute shopper will want to be aware of can be found in the following divisions:

Orchids — 5-pound bags of bark

Herbs — Thai basil and other new herbs

Annuals — Devil's Claw

Fruits and Berries — wine grapes

Xeriscape — "Gardens in a Box"

Containers, Etc. adds designer's touch

For a patio garden with pizzazz, be sure to visit the Containers, Etc. Division, where the focus is on artistic elements. Whether it's a unique pot or an unusual plant, you'll find everything you need to complete your garden theme. Featured this year will be the "designer plants" that Kelly Grummons will discuss in his April 17 lecture, "Annuals for Connoisseurs." Basil trees, trough-style terra cotta pots filled with culinary herbs, topiaries, garden art and accessories also will be available to create the picture-perfect patio or garden.

Plant Select® introduces 'Denver-friendly' plants

Plant Select®, the newest division to take root at DBG's Plant and Book Sale is a division with a purpose: to introduce Denver to plants that tolerate and thrive in the area's growing conditions.

The division is part of a program developed jointly by DBG, C.S.U. and the Green industry to promote great plants for the Denver area. Each year Plant Select® will feature five to six plants. This year's featured plants include two woody plants, Carol Mackie daphne (*Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie') and Alleghany viburnum (*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* 'Alleghany'). The three highlighted perennials are Turkish veronica (*Veronica liwanensis*), silver sage (*Salvia argentea*) and sunset hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*).

Water Plants dive in with patio gardens

"All you need to add is water," claims the Water Plants Division when explaining the latest offering—"Patio Pool Gardens." Everything else is included in these special kits for aquatic container gardens. A wide assortment of beautiful aquatic plants—including new hardy lilies and bog plants—oxygenators and accessories also will be available.

Heirlooms among new treasures in Vegetables

The Vegetable Division is excited about many of the new vegetables it will be selling—especially heirloom varieties.

Topping the list are three tomatoes which promise to be quite popular. The Stupice, from the Czech Republic, is an early cold-tolerant tomato that bears an abundance of very sweet tomatoes with an old-fashioned flavor. The Amish Paste is an heirloom variety tomato that produces fruit with an oblong, oxheart shape. The Costoluto Genovese is a wonderful multi-purpose tomato enjoyed for many generations in the Italian Riviera area.

Three new peppers are sure to be pleasers. Jackpot sports huge yellow fruits with thick walls, smooth skin and sweet flavor. Corno di Toro or "bulls horn" sweet peppers are an heirloom variety known for their long peppers. The Chinese Giant, a pepper introduced by Burpee in 1900, is a compact plant which produces very large fruit.

Other new offerings by the Vegetable Division include spectacular broccoli, sweet cucumber and purple tomatillo plants. With so many interesting offerings, the Vegetable Division is sure to be a favorite among both gardeners and cooks!

An Italian Evening in the Gardens Preview Party

Denver Botanic Gardens Plant and Book Sale

Thursday, May 8, 1997

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

1005 York Street

Italian buffet dinner and open bar by Le Petit Gourmet Catering

Advance reservations required by May 2, cost is \$50 per person.

Receive a \$5 discount on plant purchases of more than \$75 at Preview Party only!

Members receive an additional 10% off purchases.

Indoor plants will be available in Mitchell Hall, and a selection of special books will be for sale in the lobby of the education building.

For additional information please call Austin Gates, 370-8064.

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. Last year my perennial garden had mostly finished flowering by the middle of the summer. Would you suggest some perennials that will bloom in late summer and early fall?

A. Interestingly, a number of the late-bloomers seem to be sizable, "back of the border" kinds of plants. Possibilities include hybrid anemones (*Anemone x hybrida*), Michaelmas daisy (*Aster novi-belgii*), white boltonia (*Boltonia asteroides* 'Snowbank'), Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), Goldsturm coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm') and hybrid sedums such as 'Autumn Joy' or 'Vera Johnson.' "Woody perennials" such as butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) and bluebeard (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*) also provide late season color. For dryer sites consider the giant hyssops (*Agastache* spp.) and California fuchsia (*Zauschneria* spp.). Suitable for shadier locations are two smaller, but eye-catching novelties: autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) and Italian arum (*Arum italicum*). Remember, too, that late summer sees many annuals at their peaks (the best "mixed perennial borders" always contain a few annuals) and that ornamental grasses are incomparable as fall approaches.

Q. What is a complete fertilizer?

A. A fertilizer is termed "complete" if it contains the three primary nutrients (macronutrients) necessary for plant growth: nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

Q. Who, what or where is Rhynchelytrum nerviglume?

A. *Rhynchelytrum nerviglume* is a South African grass popularly known as ruby grass. Ruby grass has been included in summer annual plantings at DBG for more than a decade, yet we suspect the plant may be winter-hardy here in protected locations. The fine foliage grows 18 to 24 inches tall. As with most grasses, its zenith arrives with the production of showy seedheads in late summer and autumn. The strain grown at DBG produces metallic pink wands that have caught the attention of staff, visitors and local horticultural professionals. Don't be surprised if ruby grass is promoted by Plant Select® at local nurseries and garden centers in a year or two. Until then, limited numbers of ruby grass plants are usually sold at DBG's Plant and Book Sale in May.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.



Ruby grass
(*Rhynchelytrum nerviglume*)

Elements of garden design: Texture

Whether in landscapes or flower borders, clever and effective blending of plant textures frequently makes the difference between a great garden and an ordinary one. It is an element whose absence is sometimes difficult to pinpoint.

Basically, plants can be classified as having either a fine, medium or coarse texture. This determination is based on the general appearance of the entire plant and is most affected by the species' foliar characteristics. However, texture may change seasonally, when a plant is in flower or when foliage is absent.

In northern gardens, most plants fall into the range of medium to fine texture. Gardens without textural variation often lack visual interest—perhaps best described as a "weedy" look. It's really the clever use of the bold and very fine textured plants that gives a garden pizzazz.

Plant texture can be used to create visual illusions in the garden. Fine textures look distant while bold textures seem close by.

Be careful not to overdo the extremes of texture. The very delicate and/or bold textured plants should be used sparingly in the garden plan. With too much of a good thing you'll end up with an ununified look.

Carefully studying how texture is used effectively in well-designed plans can help you when choosing plants to spice up your own garden.



Texture is used effectively in DBG's Water-Smart Garden.

Sixth Annual Crested Butte Wildflower Trip July 11-14, 1997



By popular demand, we are returning to Crested Butte for an extraordinary wildflower display in one of the most spectacular mountain regions of Colorado. This four-day tour is during Crested Butte's Wildflower Festival, scheduled at the height of the season in order to see the greatest variety of flowers.

The trip will be accompanied by Angela Overy, botanical artist, author, country gardener and long-time instructor at DBG.

It will be an active trip with high altitude hiking and will be limited to 28 physically fit individuals.

Highlights

- 3 nights' accommodations at the luxurious Grand Butte Hotel
- All meals except breakfasts, including one dinner catered in a private home
- Evening slide talk presentation by Angela Overy, author of *Sex in Your Garden*, telling how wildflowers interact with the birds and the bees in Crested Butte
- Wildflower identification field trips every day, including an exciting high altitude excursion in jeeps
- Opportunity to browse through the numerous shops, boutiques and galleries in this charming Victorian mining town
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- Fully escorted throughout by Knobby Brown and Angela Overy
- Pre-departure party and more

Cost is \$435 per person based on double occupancy, which includes a \$35 tax-deductible voluntary donation to Denver Botanic Gardens. Single room supplement is \$122. Deposit is \$150 per person. Final payment is due May 30. Space is strictly limited; reservations will be secured in the order deposits are received. Payments are refundable less a \$25 administrative fee, plus unrecoverable costs if cancellation is received 30 or more days prior to departure. 29 days or less prior to departure, cancellations will result in a \$250 penalty, unless a replacement is found.

For more information call Austin Gates, 370-8064, or Knobby Brown, 832-6175.

Please reserve _____ places for the Crested Butte wildflower tour July 11-14.

Name/Member ID# _____

Roommate's Name/Member ID# _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Single room (\$122 supplement) ☐ yes ☐ no

☐ Enclosed is my check for (\$150 per person) to Denver Botanic Gardens

☐ Charge registration to ☐ Visa ☐ MC

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail registration form and deposit check to Denver Botanic Gardens,
909 York St., CO Denver 80206, Attn: Austin Gates.



PLANTS
FROM THE PAGES OF
HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Sex in Your Garden

by Angela Overy

(Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 1997.
1-55591-335-0, \$19.95)

Angela Overy has written a book that dares to be bold with an otherwise delicate subject—sex (plant sex, that is). Her clever approach to the science of pollination of flowers, the myriad of approaches flowers take to reproduce, and the pollinators themselves is refreshing, humorous and enlightening. The reader is entertained, both visually and in prose, while discovering much information about the process of reproduction and why flowers have developed different means to attract pollinators. Her writing style is relaxed, and she explains the subject in a manner that is clear and easy to understand.

Paragraph titles such as "Sexual Orientation" and "Changing Color After Sex" will certainly get the reader's attention. The book is visually appealing and filled with beautiful photographs of flowers and other images. The photographs not only get the message across but add a delightful and sometimes whimsical touch. Some of the photographs demand scrutiny (you will see what I mean). Scattered here and there are some of the author's wonderful botanical illustrations.

I especially liked the author's Barbara Cartlandesque "glamour" photograph in the endpiece. Angela Overy is ordinarily a correct and proper botanical illustration teacher at DBG. I don't think anyone ever suspected her double life as a romance writer! This book will cause the "daring" reader to smile, laugh out loud and even guffaw. *Sex in Your Garden* definitely belongs on the coffee table, where guests can view it—they will certainly sneak a peek while you are in the kitchen—and they, too, will enjoy Overy's wit and knowledge. Learning about the birds and the bees has never been so much fun.

Angela Overy will present a talk, "Sex in Your Garden," based on her book at DBG Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. The talk will be in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Cost is \$6 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. Call 370-8020 to register.

Randy Tatroe



Tributes

In memory of Dorothy Baker

Ruth Heinrich-Clark

In memory of Phillip Bernick

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Appel

In memory of Elizabeth Jenkins

Ethel Berry

Alfred Christensen

Mrs. Ione Gibbs

Mary Gillen

Marion Downs & Garth Hemenway

Ward S. Jenkins

Patricia and Peter Koopman

Anita & John Mahoney

Vi Pavkovich

Gwendolyn Schipper

Patricia Thompson

Lee and Wilson Vosler

Lt. General (Ret.) and Mrs. R.R. Williams

In memory of Mary Lou Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Winston Wolvington

In memory of Ralph Lindsey

Helen C. Ashbaugh

Mr. & Mrs. Chester Wasson

In memory of Sally Mays

Eileen Wolf

In honor of Jane Gilden and Dr. Adam Myers

John & Ann Petro

In memory of Harold C. Stavermann

Quest Diagnostics Stat Laboratory

In memory of Jean Thompson

Martha Socha

In memory of Jenny Wien

Solange Gignac

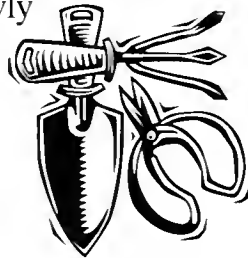
Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

The waiting is almost over!

Denver Botanic Gardens' newly remodeled and expanded Gift Shop will reopen in early May, just in time for spring planting season!

Watch your mail for a special invitation to a member-only preview of the Grand Reopening!



Ikebana art blooms

Ikebana International Denver Chapter #66 will hold its spring Flower Exhibition "Rocky Mt. Ikebana" in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27.

Five different schools of Japanese flower arranging will be represented at the exhibit, and demonstrations of this beautiful art will be given each day at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Visitors can browse a "white elephant" sale of floral and decorative equipment.

Ikebana International is a nonprofit cultural organization started in Japan by an American Army wife during the occupation of Japan. She was fascinated by the art of arranging flowers in the Oriental style and saw it as a way to bring people of very diverse cultures together.

The show is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day and is included in the Gardens' standard admission fees (free to DBG members). For more information call Fran Wittgartner, 688-6723.

From your membership office

Discounts galore!

Two more members of the green industry now give discounts to DBG Botanist Club level and above members. Echter's Greenhouse & Gardens and Green By Nature both offer 15 percent discounts to \$120-and-higher members.

ALL DBG members receive a 10 percent discount at Smith & Hawken in its Cherry Creek North store; Botanist Club level and above members receive a 15 percent discount. Just show your current membership card and see how much you save!

If you are not a member at the Botanist Club level or above, consider the advantages of upgrading your membership the next time you renew. If you have questions about this program call 370-8029.

A behind-the-scenes adventure!

Members at the Arbor Circle level and above are invited for an exciting look into DBG's production greenhouse areas Thursday, April 17. Greenhouse staff and volunteers will offer tours at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Musical entertainment and refreshments will be provided. Reservations are required and limited. Please call 370-8018 by April 14.

Special for Mom

Now through Mother's Day, buy Mom a DBG gift membership (new or renewing), and we will give her a coupon for a free box of delightful notecards—her choice from a selection in our newly expanded Gift Shop. Please tell us the gift is for Mom! Call 370-8029.

Plant Sale benefits

Be sure to take advantage of all your member benefits at the Plant and Book Sale May 9 and 10. You can shop early from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and avoid the crowds. You'll also receive a 10 percent discount on all plant purchases, just by showing your membership card.

Bird abode builders needed for contest

DBG's BirdHaus Bash contest has proved to be so much fun for so many people — not to mention some fine-feathered friends — that a 1997 version has been scheduled for flight. Deadline for registering to enter a structure is May 22. The fabricated birdhouse or bird feeder entries are due June 25, then all will be displayed at the Gardens July 11 to 27. All entries are donated to DBG and auctioned at a gala BirdHaus Bash preview party July 10.

The competition is open to everyone. For more information or an entry form call 370-8055.

April

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Inside this Green Thumb News

Learn all about this year's Plant and Book Sale.

see insert

DBG staff member writes mushroom book.

page 2

Plant Select™ recommends great plants for this region.

page 4

Register for the Crested Butte Wildflower Trip.

page 6

Denver Botanic Gardens

909 York Street

Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Denver, CO

Permit No. 205

Coming Up:

April

- 1 * *Vertical Gardening*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
- 2 * *Cacti & Other Succulents for Beginners*
Perennials for Great Bouquets
- 3 * *The Fascinating Fungi*
- 4 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 5 Denver Rose Society Rose Symposium
American Iris Society, Region 20 meeting
Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
* *Botany for Beginners*
Tour to Fantasy Orchids
- 6, 7 Incredible Edibles: A Culinary Garden—Herbs, Flowers & Salads
- 7 Free Day at York Street
* *The Rose Garden*
- 8 "Sex in your Garden" lecture
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 9 * *Designing Ideas*
Early Bird Hike
The Trendy Topiary: Art & Design
- 10 Denver Rose Society meeting
- 12 Rocky Mountain Chapter, American Rock Garden Society
Alpine Plant Sale
* *Applied Plant Taxonomy*
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 13 Colorado Water Garden Society meeting
- 14 Colorado Mycological Society meeting

- 15 *Container Herb Gardening*
* *Rock Garden Plants*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
- 16 *Herb Wreath Thyme!*
Herb Society of America meeting
- 17 Behind-the-Scenes Tour—Arbor Circle level members and above
* *Tropical Trees: Beginning Indoor Bonsai*
* *Graceful Grasses*
Annuals for Connoisseurs
- 19 *The Water Garden: Basic Pool Construction*
Basic Plant Ecology
American Iris Society, Region 20 meeting
- 20 Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 22 *Backyard Birds and Their Migration*
* *Advanced Botanical Illustration*
- 23 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture — "Visits to Great American Gardens"
- 24 African Violet Society meeting
Gardeners of America meeting
- 25 *Raised-Bed Gardening: Construction*
- 26 *Raised-Bed Gardening: Growing*
- 25-27 Ikebana Show
- 28 Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 29 Colorado Native Plant Society meeting

May

- 2 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
* *Sensory Tour Guide Training*
- 3 Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

May 1997



Shoppers make beeline for Gardens' annual Plant and Book Sale

DBG's pathways will be buzzing with shoppers at the 48th annual Plant and Book Sale on May 9 and 10. With 250,000 plants and 10,000 books on sale, everyone can find a deal at the largest volunteer-operated plant sale in the country.

All construction projects planned for the summer will be delayed until after the sale, leaving the entrances and checkouts virtually in-tact for the two-day shopping extravaganza. Parking, however, still will be limited. Shoppers are urged to use the complimentary shuttle service. Park your car at the Target store, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and enjoy a free double-decker bus ride to the Gardens. Buses will run every 20 minutes.

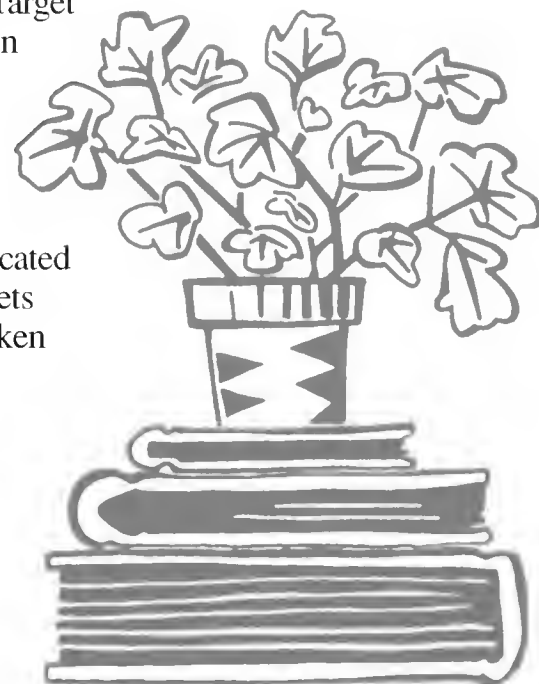
Checkouts will be located at the alley on the north side of the Gardens and in the Botanic Gardens House parking lot on the south side. The Cheesman gate will be open for entering the sale, but checkout will not be available.

Customers with large purchases are encouraged to use the complimentary plant valet service located at both checkouts. Plant valets will watch purchases until shoppers return with their cars. Then valets will help load the plants. Children 6 and younger are invited to participate in an activity in the sunken amphitheater. For \$1 per pot, children can decorate a pot and plant a flower in it.

Admission to the sale is free. Gates are open to the general public from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. However, members who show their cards, seniors, plant sale volunteers and physically challenged individuals may enter at 8:30 a.m. on either day.

The Book Division will hold a Bag Day Sale on Sunday From 10 a.m. until noon. Shoppers will pay only \$3 for all the books that can fit into a bag. Call the library for entry instructions, 370-8014.

For more information about the Plant and Book Sale, call 370-8091.



Summer events step out with Strolls

Entertainment abounds as DBG's summer events take shape.

Sunset Garden Strolls will kick off the summer of events. Visitors will enjoy the beauty of the York Street gardens while drifting along the paths encountering soft music during each of the seven evening strolls from 6 to 8 p.m.: June 11, 18 and 25, July 9 and 23, and Aug. 20 and 27. Pack a picnic, or purchase dinner catered by Pour La France!, and simply relax.

DBG's latest addition to the event schedule is aimed at a younger generation. Family Walkabouts, slated for July 16 and Aug. 13, will feature children's entertainment and food. Some special surprises are in store for DBG's youngest friends.

As in the past, the outdoor amphitheater will be the site of the Summer Series. These evenings of jazz, folk and blues music—along with a touch of theater—have become neighborhood favorites. A complete line-up will be mailed to you soon.

Steeped in the traditions of American Indians, the American Indian Sunflower Festival will return to DBG July 19 and 20. Festivities will include demonstrations, vendor booths, crafts and fun galore from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Mark your calendars now, then watch future issues of *Green Thumb News* for more information on all the summer events.

The waiting is over! The Gift Shop is open!

Mark your calendars and make out your shopping lists...

Denver Botanic Gardens' Gift Shop Public Grand Reopening is May 3 and 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., just in time for the spring planting season...

live plants • garden tools and decorations • seeds • books and cards • kids' items

Green Thumb News May 1997

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for July issue: May 16

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.
Gift Shop 370-8079
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8003
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

May is always one of the most active months at DBG and Chatfield Arboretum. Of course, the annual Plant and Book Sale always brings out a crowd, but there is much more to see. Our spring flowering trees are in full bloom, peonies are coming into their glory, the new Perennial Walk is showing good color, and the Rock Alpine Garden reaches its crescendo in late May.

Our spring classes offer more than ever—just in time to help you add spark to your own gardens. Be sure to take a class this summer, or sign up for the Perennial Garden Symposium in June (see page 3).

This month is full of even more excitement, though, as we get underway with many garden improvements, including expanding our parking to make it more convenient for all our guests, completely renovating the interior of the Conservatory and creating the Romantic Gardens.

I hope to see you all at the Gardens during this most exciting month.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Summer kids classes begin next month

Summertime Kids is a series of fun courses for children. Children ages 3 to 11 are invited to discover the excitement and mystery of natural history at the Gardens' York Street site and Chatfield Arboretum this summer. The classes inspire budding artists, challenge aspiring naturalists and kindle an interest in other cultures.

Classes begin June 9 and run through Aug. 21. Class size is limited, so register early! For information or to register, call 370-8020.

HT Certificate Program begins this fall

Beginning this fall, DBG's Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies will become a reality. The center will offer courses for professionals interested in the field of horticultural therapy.

In two years, students can complete a certificate program that requires only three visits to the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center per year. The faculty will be composed of experienced horticultural therapists from across the U.S.

The goal of the center is to improve human well-being by encouraging more horticultural therapy programs throughout the country. The staff will provide the tools and techniques essential for connecting people and gardening in a purposeful way.

The certificate program begins with an Introduction to Horticultural Therapy Oct. 9 to 12. For more information contact DBG's horticultural therapy program, 370-8190.

Two trustees on board

Denver Botanic Gardens' Board of Trustees has approved two additional members for 1997. Mr. Kevin Crull is vice president of sales and services at U.S. West Communications. He is responsible for all business and government customers in Minnesota, Colorado and New Mexico. Mr. Rob Klugman is senior vice president of corporate development at Coors Brewing Company. He also serves on the boards of the Anti-Defamation League and the Association of National Advertisers.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Planning continues on many of the improvement projects this month, including the conservatory renovation, the Romantic Gardens and the parking lot. But the most exciting news is the reopening of the Gift Shop.

On May 3 the shop will reopen, after being closed for four months. Shoppers will notice an expanded display area that shows off the unique architecture of the building. But the most obvious—and exciting—change will be a dramatically increased line of merchandise.

Live plants, garden accessories and decorations, seeds and ecologically-oriented items join the usual favorites. During the grand reopening May 3 and 4 visitors can register to win prizes and gift certificates. Special book-signings also are being planned throughout the weekend. Mark your calendars and make out your shopping lists—the waiting is over! The Gift Shop is back!

DBG Guild Open House recruits new members

The Botanic Gardens Guild offers opportunities for cultivation, creativity and camaraderie, with hands-on experiences throughout the year.

An Open House for prospective new members will be May 21 at 10 a.m. in the gazebo at the herb garden. Visitors can get acquainted with current members and learn about the Guild's functions. Light refreshments will be served.

During the summer Guild members maintain DBG's herb and cutting gardens and cut and dry herbs and flowers. In the fall, members make herbed vinegars and create dried flower arrangements for the Holiday Sale in November.

If you are interested in joining the Guild, come to the Open House or call Pat Coughenour, president-elect, 322-8421 or 368-0607.

It's 'thyme' to start thinking about herbs

Herbs are some of the most important and versatile plants in our lives. They add color and flavor to our food, scent our rooms and delight our eyes. The wonders of herbs will be explored at Denver Botanic Gardens' third annual Herb Fair and Symposium Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Herb experts Emelie Tolley, Trish Flaster, Mindy Green and Rexford Talbert will share their culinary, growing, cultural and aromatherapy expertise during the day of ticketed lectures. Preregistration is required and limited for the lectures.

Trish Flaster will begin the day with a slide show and discussion about how the interaction between plants and people have formed civilizations. Flaster, a local ethnobotanist who has worked for Shaman Pharmaceuticals and Celestial Seasonings in Boulder, will offer an informative beginning to the day.

Next, renowned author Emelie Tolley will take the audience on a photographic tour of glorious herb gardens in England, France, the U.S. and Canada. Tolley concentrates much of her energies on showing others how herbs can provide pleasure in the garden, in decorating the home and in enhancing delicious, healthy foods. She is the author of five highly successful books, including *Gardening with Herbs* and *Cooking with Herbs*. Many of Tolley's books will be for sale, and she will be available after her talk to sign copies.

Before the afternoon session, participants will be treated to a gourmet herbal lunch. During the lunch break they can wander through the outdoor Herb Fair, gathering ideas and purchasing items from the many craft and artisan booths, picking out their own starter herb plants and topiaries, and touring DBG's Herb Garden with knowledgeable guides.

Rexford Talbert, well-known expert on and long-time grower of thymes, oreganos and lavenders, will start the afternoon explaining gardening techniques for growing these three popular herbs. 1997 has been declared the "Year of Thyme," making Talbert's talk all the more "thymely."

Finally, Mindy Green will end the day with an enlightening talk on aromatherapy. She is co-author of *Aromatherapy, A Complete Guide to the Healing Art* and currently works at the Herb Research Foundation in Boulder. Participants will learn specifics on essential oils, why smells trigger memories and much more.

Cost for the all-day symposium, including the gourmet herbal lunch, is \$60 for DBG and Herb Society of America members, \$70 for nonmembers. Space is limited; to register call 370-8020.

Admission to the Herb Fair is included in general admission to the Gardens: \$4 for adults, \$2 for seniors 65 and older and youth 6 to 15. Children 5 and younger and DBG members are admitted free. Watch next month's *Green Thumb News* for more information on the fair.

See classical gardens in contemporary styles

American gardeners are beginning to realize that we need to look to the English garden borders for inspiration, learn what we can, then adapt some of their ideas to our busy schedules, available space and local climate. DBG offers a rare opportunity to hear two internationally renowned Englishmen, Roy Lancaster and Robin Williams, on Monday, June 16. Local gardening expert Lauren Springer, who has gardened on both sides of the Atlantic, joins them.

Lancaster is considered one of the world's foremost plantsmen and is known for his worldly travels that result in the introduction of new plants for all gardeners. His latest book, *What Plant Where?*, should be part of every gardener's reference library. His lecture, "The English Plantsman's Garden," focuses on gardens of some of the most dedicated, talented and enthusiastic horticulturists of England.

Williams is an award-winning garden designer, co-founder of the College of Garden Design and international landscape design consultant. He even has designed gardens in Colorado. William's lecture, "Garden Design: The Route to Success," explores garden planning.

Springer has worked in public gardens on both sides of the Atlantic. She writes an award-winning garden column for *The Denver Post* and is a regular contributor to *Garden Design* and *Country Living Gardener* magazines. Springer designed the Water-Smart Garden and co-designed the new O'Fallon Perennial Walk at DBG and the cottage garden at Hudson Gardens in Littleton. Her talk, "The Layered Garden: How to Have it All in a Small Space," looks at solutions to small-space gardening.

The symposium is in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Cost for the day-long program, including lunch, is \$75 for members and \$90 for nonmembers. Please indicate your choice of regular or vegetarian lunch with your registration. For more information or to register call 370-8020 or 370-8019.



Emelie Tolley

Employee of the month

Ken Creekmore, maintenance department mechanic, was voted by his co-workers as March's employee of the month. Ken is recognized for his outstanding "can-do" attitude and willingness to do whatever it takes to complete a job. He is always upbeat and willing to help, even if a task is not in his job description. Congratulations, Ken!

Results of 1996 CSU flower trials

All flowers are not created equal. Results from the W.D. Holley Plant Environmental Research Center Annual Trial Garden at Colorado State University may direct you to the best selections for your garden this season. More than 625 varieties were grown and evaluated last summer. On Aug. 7 they were evaluated by the trial garden's advisory committee of industry professionals.

Among geraniums, awards went to 'Pinto Scarlet', judged best seed geranium for its uniform, tall, vigorous habit. 'Acapulco', with lavender-pink blooms, was chosen best ivy geranium. Judges commented on its abundant flowers on vigorous plants. Great flower color and display led 'Designer Hot Pink' to win as best zonal geranium.

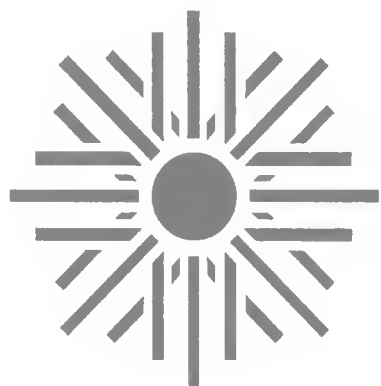
1996 awards went to two blue-flowered petunias. 'Dreams Midnight', a grandiflora type, was deemed outstanding for its numerous dark flowers on full, uniform plants. 'Fantasy Blue', a dark vel-

vety blue miniflora, topped all in its category.

Best pansy in the trial was 'Delta Primrose with Blotch', an eye-catching light yellow hybrid that produced large flowers on sturdy plants. It was a good year for impatiens in the trial. Among the many outstanding varieties, two tied for top honors: 'Showstopper Tropical Punch' (a salmon-orange hybrid), and 'Dazzler Rose'.

An orange-yellow marigold, 'Safari Tangerine', was rated best for its flower color and vigor. Best wax begonia was 'Prelude Pink', and top honors in flowering tobacco went to 'Havana Carmine Rose'.

Best of Show honors were captured by a hybrid zinnia called 'Dreamland'. It produced bushy plants with showy flowers in a variety of vivid hues. The trial garden, on the Fort Collins campus, is an All America Selections Display Garden and is open to the public.



Look for this logo when picking out your plants at DBG's annual Plant Sale and at garden centers this summer—it indicates 1997 Plant Select® recommendations. Plant Select® is a program administered by DBG and C.S.U. to expand the plant palette by endorsing new or underutilized plants that are well-adapted to this region. The five 1997 selections were featured in last month's Green Thumb News.

Old garden roses on display at DBG

The Denver Rose Society and DBG will sponsor an Old Garden Rose Show at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center Saturday, June 7, beginning at 9 a.m. The show is part of the Heritage Rose Foundation national conference being held in Denver June 6 to 8.

A bounty of colorful, fragrant old garden roses—as well as some wild species, hardy shrub and modern hybrid tea roses—will be displayed. You are invited to bring your own blooming roses between 7:30 and 9 a.m. to display in this non-judged show—vases will be provided.

For those who want to add a dash of history to their gardens, some old garden roses will be for sale. Rosarians will be on-hand to explain the fascination and techniques of growing these old garden varieties. For more information call Bill Campbell, 832-7070, or John Starnes, 388-4731.

On a related note, May 19 to 24 has been declared "Rose Planting Week" in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Denver Rose Society. The society will be planting a rose plant, *Rosa* 'Golden Celebration' at DBG and other locations. Be sure to check out this special rose on your next stroll through DBG's rose garden.

Perennial of the year

The Perennial Plant Association, an organization of perennial plant professionals, has chosen *Salvia* 'May Night' as the 1997 Perennial Plant of the Year. The plant grows 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall and thrives in a sunny location. Long-lasting spikes of dark violet-blue flowers appear from late spring through early summer.



Salvia 'May Night'

New indoor plants

Open only to the trade, last January's Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., hints at what indoor plant enthusiasts may anticipate in the houseplant marketplace. Judges of the more than 700 exhibitor booths chose several plants for recognition.

The award for this year's best new flowering plant went to *Spathiphyllum* 'Mascha-Duet', a double-flowered white variety. Best new foliage plant went to an aglaonema having narrow tricolor leaves with shades of silver-green called 'Black Lance'. Other aglaonemas, with the cultivar names of 'Queen of Siam' and 'Silver Frost' were notable for their pearly-white stems.

Another exciting new variety was a compact crown-of-thorns called 'Short and Sweet'. Watch, too, for 'Choco' anthurium, an unusual blossom aimed at the cut-flower market. It features a large chocolate-brown spathe and a spadix of pink and green. These new selections may take time to enter the retail market, depending on consumer tastes and production constraints.

Compost your waste

Turn your garbage into gold by learning to compost. It's good for your yard and garden, good for the environment, easy to do and fun.

Denver Recycles will be offering two-hour hands-on composting classes from mid-May through mid-October at the Denver Recycles Backyard Composting Demonstration Site in the Gove Community Garden, 13th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. May classes are May 17 from 9 to 11 a.m., May 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. and May 28 from 6 p.m. to dusk. Classes are free, but pre-registration is required at least one week before each class: call 640-1678.

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. What are some annuals that are easily grown from seed that I may sow directly in the garden?

A. Most annuals' seeds are easily grown by direct sowing. However, due to the demands of our "instant" society, plants grown in cell packs are now the consumer norm. Arguably, gardeners can gain a few weeks on Colorado's sometimes too short growing season with container annuals, and the immediate color is enticing. Still, there's a satisfaction in carefully planting and watering seeds, watching them sprout, thinning their ranks and enjoying their growth and flowering that can't be duplicated with a hurried purchase of a few "six-packs." The process is delightfully instructive to children. Some reliable annuals to sow after danger of frost is past include bells of Ireland, morning glory, zinnia, marigold, sunflower, bachelor's button and cosmos.

Q. When is the best time to prune lilacs?

A. The best time to prune lilacs and other spring-flowering shrubs is in late spring or early summer, soon after they have finished flowering. If pruned later, the buds that will provide next year's flower crop may be pruned away.

Q. Should I pinch back my bedding plants when I plant them?

A. Although the thought of removing growth and/or flowers from newly purchased plants may cause considerable anxiety, bedding plants that are particularly gangly usually will benefit from a good pinch at planting time. In the long run you will have bushier specimens and more blossoms. Float the flowers you remove in a shallow bowl, and enjoy them indoors. Be sure to tear apart or otherwise separate matted root balls at planting time, too, so that the young roots can more easily work their way into surrounding soil.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.



What's the problem?

These aren't spruce cones. They are deformed shoots known as Cooley spruce galls that are caused by a very small insect. Severity of infestations vary from year to year. The damage is primarily aesthetic and should be of little concern. Preventative sprays, usually unnecessary, should be applied in late April or early May.



PLANTS

FROM THE PAGES OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

A trip through Denver's history with flowering annuals

A quick trip through old *Green Thumb* magazines and to the Western History Room at Denver Public Library told me a little about the rich history of annual flower plantings in Denver parks. As early as 1873, the *Rocky Mountain News* printed a story about greenhouses and nurseries becoming more prominent throughout the city. By 1899 there was some controversy about the floral memorial pavilion in City Park and its bedding plants. Two members of the City Improvement Society suggested that the vulgar displays be given up and permanent blooming shrubs and plants substituted. Apparently by 1902 this controversy had subsided, and annuals had become a prominent feature of City Park. That year an entire garden of "rare and beautiful specimens of decorative plants were arranged artistically" throughout a tent that, despite the wind, also held a Maypole dance on May Day. In front of the tent outdoors there were many bedding plants, including cannas, fuchsias, geraniums, heliotropes, marguerites and "some exceedingly beautiful beds of pansies in all colors and varieties." Sound familiar?

The 1930s and '40s brought a frenzy of floral displays throughout the park system. Each year the newspapers boasted more plants—204,000 in 1938, 235,000 in 1949. And they still continue today. What began as S.R. DeBoer's strategy of beautifying Denver's parks in a Victorian England bedding tradition now has evolved into something unique to Denver that you, too, can enjoy in your own garden. Annuals grow spectacularly here because of the intensity of the sun and lack of problems with mildew and other fungal diseases (no overhead watering now!). Their bold colors also stand up to the intense light here. Since Denver Parks' initial plantings, Denver Botanic Gardens and many, many local nurseries have been experimenting with annuals for years—now there is a wide range of varieties available to the home owner. Try your own Victorian bedding area, Denver style!

Susan C. Eubank
Senior Librarian

Celebrate wildflowers at the Gardens

Be sure to visit DBG's Lobby Court May 19 to 23 for a kick-off week of "Celebrating Wildflowers," an annual celebration of our native wildflower wealth. The event promotes the importance of conserving and managing native plants and plant habitats in America.

Throughout the week the Lobby Court will feature wildflower displays. Representatives from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service will join DBG staff members to answer questions about native wildflowers. A free coloring book will be available, showcasing wildflowers from sagebrush country.

Plants are the foundation for all life. They produce oxygen and filter the air we breathe. Plants provide us with food, medicines and places of beauty and peace. Native plants are an integral part of all healthy ecosystems.

If you are interested in learning more about our native flora and places to enjoy wildflowers, stop by DBG during "Celebrating Wildflowers" week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Class on 'Perennials for Dummies' offered

Are you still not sure how to begin your perennial garden? Whether you're new to gardening or just at a loss when it comes to choosing plants and garden sites, you'll learn the basics of perennial gardening at this fun, informational talk Monday, June 2, at 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

The enormously popular "For Dummies" series' newest book was written by local gardening authority Marcia Tatroe. This program will help novice perennial gardeners succeed in their first-time efforts. *Perennials for Dummies* will be available for purchase, and Tatroe will sign your copy after the presentation.

Cost is \$7 for members and \$9 nonmembers. For information or to register call 370-8020.



The March Bonfils-Stanton talk, "New Approaches to Garden Design in Europe" by Patrick Bowe, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 14, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Bowe will highlight gardening trends that work well in Denver. For more information or tickets call 370-8020.

See the '40s & '50s

Join Bill and Mickie Thurston as they take you on a voyage to rarely seen areas of wild beauty between the southern latitudes of 40 and 59 degrees in their talk, "The Roaring '40s and the Furious '50s," Wednesday, May 28, from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$6 for DBG members, \$7 for nonmembers. Call to register, 370-8020.

Learn about regional foods and grains

This season's final Incredible Edibles program, "The Bread Basket—Regional Foods, Regional Grains," Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, will teach about staples that make up your meals.

You'll be able to sample many types of breads, pastas and other grains from around the world while learning about their histories and plant-human interactions. Children's activities will round out the day.

Three talks will be presented each day. At 1 p.m. Bob Shaw from Colorado State University will tell about different economically important plants, including corn and wheat. At 2 p.m. each day Tony Pasquini and Pasqual Acedvado from Campagna Baking and Pasquini's Pizzeria will describe the bread making process and demonstrate pastry decorating. At 3 p.m. Gretchen Stewart, executive vice-president of marketing for Rocky Mountain Flour Milling, will discuss processing wheat into flour.

Sponsors include Campagna Baking, Pasta Jay's, Chao-Praya Thai Restaurant, Bluepoint Bakery, Stacey's Tortillas and Moe's Broadway Bagels. The sponsors will be offering free samples and will have products for sale. You'll be able to wash down all the pastas and breads with Italian sodas on sale from Just Java.

All activities are included in DBG's admission fees (free to members) and are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. For more information call 370-8041.

Water plants make a splash at DBG

The Colorado Water Garden Society will be selling thousands of water garden plants at DBG Sunday, June 8, from 10:30 a.m. until plants are sold out. Come early for the best selection.

The sale offers water gardeners a chance to do some one-stop water plant shopping—hardy water lilies, tropicals, marginals, bog plants and everything you need to put together a beautiful water garden will be for sale. Prices are considerably lower than at area garden centers, and the large selection of plants, including many new varieties, are fresh and of higher quality.

Members of the water garden society will be on hand to offer planning and growing advice and share their experiences in this ever-popular hobby.

The sale is included in the Gardens' standard admission fees (free to DBG members). For more information call Stan Skinger, 237-0071, or Cindy Thomas, 755-1885.

Tributes

In memory of J.F. "Jim" Baxter

Susan and Dick Kirk

In memory of Betty Cramer

Carol Netwal

In honor of Lucile Downer

Saint John's Cathedral

In memory of Ellen Ferguson

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Ashbaugh

Mr. & Mrs. William L. Boyd

Elaine F. Burbach & Jane Westenberg

Kathryn & Lynn Byrd

Beverly Joan Cates

Mr. & Mrs. Robin L. Cuany

Frank Derbak

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert H. Fechner

Dr. W. W. Ferguson

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Forester

Elizabeth A. Franklin

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Garth

Marilyn E. Goodrich

Mr. & Mrs. Tomio Harada

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard B. Hartwich

Mary W. Hathaway

Mr. & Mrs. Dale F. Heermann

Marion N. Heikes

Mr. & Mrs. Carl N. Hittle

Mr. & Mrs. E. Gordon Kruse

Mary Ann Kuster

Mr. & Mrs. Don Lybecker

Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. McCullough

Majel H. Morgan

Plake Family Trust

Marjorie Rhoades

Ann Ryan

Jean M. Sanderson

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Schuh

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin D. Skold

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stacey

Mr. & Mrs. M.H. Stephens

Mr. & Mrs. William Striffler

Wayne D. Sundberg

Mr. & Mrs. Harold M. Swope

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Tinnermeier

Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Ward

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory S. Whitaker

Sally Willis

Elizabeth Wyckoff

In memory of Mrs. Margaret Gery

Nancy Syms

In memory of Elizabeth Jenkins

Beverly & Frank Bachans

Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Ceremsak

Virginia G. Gromer

Joan McGraw

Karen L. Skaff

Laurie J. Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Williams

In memory of Matt Mateyka

Dr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert

In memory of Edith Malo "Ceecie" Roberts

Prue Grant

In memory of Sue Ellen Roser

Linda Morley

In memory of George D. Schweigert Sr.

Syd Glick

In memory of Robert Staudenmier

Judith a Waldren

In memory of Jean Thompson

Ms. Ramona M. Bartels

Epsilon Sigma Alpha, Alpha Alpha #170

In honor of Jack A. Weil

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Appel

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution.

Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

From your membership office

Rise & shine at a breakfast & tour

Members at the Botanist Club level and above are invited to York Street's Home Demonstration Garden on Saturday, May 31, for a continental breakfast and tour of the garden. Reservations are required and limited. Please watch for your special invitation, and make your reservation by calling 370-8018.

A senior stroll...for senior members and their guests

Senior members and their guests are invited to a first-ever Senior Stroll Wednesday, June 4, from 7 to 9 a.m. Wear your walking shoes, and visit the Gardens in its early-morning glory. Complimentary coffee from Espresso Affair and rolls will be provided. A limited supply of wheelchairs will be available. Admission is free, and reservations are not required. Senior Strolls will continue July 2 and Aug. 6. Please call 370-8021 with questions or special requests.

Give Dad a Sunday sundae treat!

Members are invited to the Gardens on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, to enjoy an ice cream sundae with Dad. Musical entertainment will be provided, and kids can make their dad a boutonniere to wear on his special day. The open-house festivities will take place in the Oak Grove from 1 to 3 p.m. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$2 per person (children 2 and younger are free). Tickets may be purchased at the event. For information or to make reservations call 370-8018.

Two iris shows planned this month

The High Country Iris Society, a new affiliate of the American Iris Society, will exhibit median iris at the Gardens Sunday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Median" is the term used for iris that bloom earlier than the tall bearded variety and includes miniature dwarf bearded, standard dwarf bearded, intermediate bearded, aril and arilbred iris.

The annual iris show sponsored by Region 20 of the American Iris Society will be held at DBG Saturday, May 31, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A variety of iris growing classes will be offered, and hundreds of colorful iris will be artistically displayed. All gardeners are welcome and encouraged to participate in the show. The show is themed "Preview '97" in preparation for the 1998 American Iris Society National Convention being held in Denver. For more information call Rob Stetson, 733-5709, Randy Penn, 761-5170, Mark Timonier, 456-5742, or Jayme Irvin, 825-3384.

Watercolor art on display at DBG

The Colorado Watercolor Society will hold its annual exhibition of watercolor paintings in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall May 17 to 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The society has been exhibiting at the Gardens for more than 20 years.

Barbara Kastner, an elected member of the American Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society, will be this year's juror. She has been published in American Artist and The Artists magazines.

Numerous paintings will be for sale, and a percent of all sales benefits DBG. For more information call Pat Killorin, 425-9500.

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons and Corporate members who began or renewed their memberships during the first quarter of 1997.

Four Seasons members

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brega
Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn K. Borgen
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald C. Cambre
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Cleworth
Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Cornwell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Gates
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Phipps
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Sheridan
Mr. & Mrs. B. K. Sweeney
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Wallace

Corporate members

Alameda Wholesale Nursery Inc.
Arvada Excavating
Cyprus Amax Minerals Company
Davis, Graham & Stubbs
Du-Wald Steel Corporation
First Data Corporation
King Soopers Inc.
Lawngevity
OEA Inc.
Plants Unlimited
Security Life of Denver
Swingle Tree & Landscape Care

May

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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'Celebrating Wildflowers' week planned at the Gardens.
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Final Incredible Edibles program focuses on grains.
page 6

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Coming Up:

DBG begins extended summer hours May 1

Beginning May 1 Denver Botanic Gardens begins a summer schedule that allows visitors to enjoy the Gardens during selected evenings. Through Sept. 30 the Gardens will be open Saturdays through Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays the Gardens is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring your family and friends and enjoy an evening in your Gardens.

May

- 2 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
** Sensory Tour Guide Training*
- 3 Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
- 3,4 Incredible Edibles: The Bread Basket — Regional Foods & Grains
- 4 Dawn Chorus Migratory Bird Week Celebration at Chatfield Arboretum
- 5 Free Day at York Street
- 8 DBG's Plant and Book Sale Preview Party
Denver Rose Society meeting
- 9,10 DBG's Plant and Book Sale
- 10 Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 13 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 14 ** Preschooler Tour Guide Training*
- 15 North American Rock Garden Society meeting
- 17 High Country Judges meeting
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
Rocky Mountain African Violet Council meeting
- 17-26 Colorado Watercolor Society Show
- 18 Colorado Water Garden Society meeting
- 19 Ultra Violet Club meeting
Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 20 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop

- 21 Herb Society of America meeting
- 22 African Violet Society meeting
Gardeners of America meeting
- 27 Colorado Native Plant Society meeting
- 31 Breakfast & Early Morning Tour—Botanist level members & above
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
- 31-June 1 Iris Society Region 20 Show

June

- 1 Iris Society Region 20 Show
- 2 Free Day at York Street
- 3 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 4 Senior Early Morning Stroll—*for members only*
- 6 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Denver Rose Society Old Garden Roses Display
American Iris Society meeting
- 8 Colorado Water Garden Society Water Plant Sale
Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 9 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 10 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 11 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 12 Denver Rose Society meeting

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

June 1997



First summer concert an air of Ireland

Denver Botanic Gardens will take on the air of the Emerald Isle as the 1997 Garden Concerts set sail Friday, June 20, with the sprightly sounds of Solas, one of the most popular and acclaimed young traditional Irish music groups. You may have heard Solas in movies "The Brothers McMullen" or "Dead Man Walking." Don't miss this dynamic kick-off to the summer concert season.

The series continues July 11 with Cassandra Wilson's velvety smooth lyrics; the Red Clay Ramblers July 25, performing light-hearted American "string band" music; Kevin Mahogany July 31 singing jazz, soul, novelty, blues and gospel; Rosanne Cash Aug. 21, with her rich and resonant voice; Keb' Mo' Aug. 28 singing award-winning "modern blues"; Ivan Lins Sept. 4 singing Brazilian favorites; and Rice, Rice, Hillman and Pederson, joining together for a special wrap-up of the series Sept. 12.

Four evenings of theater will complement the music performances. Aug. 7 and 8 Julian Glover will perform *Beowulf*. Kevin Moore will act out a tribute to Lewis Carroll in *Crocodiles and Cream* Aug. 14 and 15. Children's concerts have evolved into multi-activity "Family Walkabouts" July 16 and Aug. 13. Watch next month's newsletter for more information on these fun evenings.

Concert-goers can pre-order special box dinners from DBG's summer caterer Pour La France! by calling 777-4773. Or, they can pack their own picnic dinner to enjoy before or during the show.

Everyone should park at DBG's satellite parking lot, the Glendale Target store lot, 4301 E. Virginia Ave. Free shuttle buses will transport concert-goers to and from the performances, and all shuttle bus riders will receive a free DBG admission pass to be used at a later date. Buses run from 4:30 to 10:30 p.m. Be aware that parking around the Gardens is severely limited, with most street parking off-limits. Please observe the "no parking" signs to avoid a costly parking ticket.

All concerts and performances begin at 7:15 p.m. in the outdoor amphitheater; gates open at 6 p.m. Tickets can be ordered by phone, 777-3836, or stop by DBG's front gate beginning June 9. Many shows sell out, so order tickets early.

The Garden Concerts are presented by Security Life of Denver, sponsored by *The Denver Post* and produced by Jim Sprinkle Productions.

Watch the mail for a Garden Concerts brochure, with ticket prices and complete information on all the performances, or call 777-3836 or 370-8187.

Herb Fair spices up the Gardens this month

Learn how to grow, harvest, cook with and use herbs in crafts at Denver Botanic Gardens' third annual Herb Fair Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

While meandering through the Gardens you can enjoy the many artisan and vendor booths. Watch art and cooking demonstrations and sample tantalizing herbal treats and beverages. Throughout the day tours of DBG's herb garden will be given by knowledgeable volunteer guides, and the Society for Creative Anachronism will lead participants on a medieval herb walk at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Flautist Ben Kohn will stroll the Gardens in medieval costume from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. playing a variety of renaissance selections.

Thousands of herb plants, as well as herbal crafts, bath products, books, herbal arrangements, topiaries, potting benches, garden signs and birdhouses will be for sale. Educational information will be available, and experts will offer tips on growing herbs, using herbs for culinary purposes and creating beautiful herbal crafts. Children's hands-on craft activities will round out the day. Interweave Press Inc., publisher of *The Herb Companion* and *Herbs for Health* magazines and numerous herbal books will be selling all their publications in the lobby court.

Serious herb fanatics should plan to attend a day-long symposium. Herb experts Trish Flaster, Emelie Tolley, Rexford Talbert and Mindy Green will share their culinary, growing, cultural and aromatherapy expertise during the day of ticketed lectures. Cost for the symposium, including an herbal lunch, is \$60 for members, \$70 for nonmembers. For more information see May's *Green Thumb News*. Preregistration is required, call 370-8020.

Entrance to the Herb Fair is included in DBG's admission fees (free to members). For information call 370-8187.



Green Thumb News June 1997

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for August issue: June 20

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed major holidays.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8003
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

We live in a world of diversity. Here at the Gardens, the diversity of plants is evident every day. We tend to plants that grow in damp rainforests, dry deserts, grasslands and high mountain ecosystems.

As a western state, Colorado is a melting pot of culture—a state of great human diversity. At Denver Botanic Gardens we celebrate the uses of plants by different cultures and strive to reach all Colorado's audiences by offering diverse events at the Gardens and through outreach programs.

July 11 to 13 we will participate in the Black Arts Festival in City Park. The festival highlights the African American culture; our booth will tie in certain plants to this culture.

Once each summer we sponsor a cultural event. In years past, we've highlighted the Hispanic, Japanese and American Indian cultures. This year, again, we will hold our American Indian Sunflower Festival July 19 and 20. These cultural events give specific groups of people a chance to share their history and traditions with the general public. It also allows us to introduce DBG to new audiences who may not know about us.

On your next visit to the Gardens, take special note of the great diversity of plants we grow here. Many of our gardens focus on plants inherent to a specific culture: the Japanese Garden, the Aztec Garden, the Native People's Garden and the Chile Pepper Garden, to name a few. Be sure to mark your calendars for our cultural activities. They are great venues not only to enjoy plants, but also learn about their history and the people who first grew them.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Porcelain painting exhibit planned

The Colorado Federation of China Painters will hold its annual show, "Colorado Botanicals," in DBG's Mitchell Hall Saturday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Modern and Victorian shapes of painted china—many with botanical themes—will be displayed. Porcelain art combines basic art techniques used in other media with the complexity of using an oil-based transparent medium that requires numerous layerings of paint to increase color, hue, depth and detail. Pieces are kiln fired as many as 20 times to achieve desired results.

Admission to the show is included in DBG's standard admission fees (free to members). For more information call Kathy Peterson, 377-0762.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

The next time you visit DBG, be sure to check out the whimsical construction fence around the Romantic Gardens. The fence panels were painted in colorful, botanical designs by eight area schools: Phillips Preschool; Amesse, Bradley, Bromwell and Palmer elementary schools; Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Lourdes and Rishel middle schools. They will remain up throughout the Romantic Gardens renovation process.

The realignment of York and Josephine streets will soon be underway. The streets are being straightened in order to make room for an expanded parking lot. This second phase of the project will begin soon, and the finished product will double the current capacity of the lot. The entire project should be completed in late summer.

Johnson named DBG marketing director

Mary B. Johnson has been named DBG's director of marketing and special events.

Johnson has more than 20 years of experience in marketing, advertising and horticulture, including directing the marketing programs for George J. Ball, the largest U.S. horticultural supplier. She also has worked at Nordic Track, Pillsbury and American Airlines.

Johnson obtained a bachelor of science degree in horticulture and botany from Iowa State University and a master's of business administration from the University of Chicago. She is the author of a book on container gardening, *Tub Farming*, and was a Master's Division bicycle racer. She is a founder of Denver Community Knitting, an organization that consists of more than 100 women who knit garments for Denver-area charities.

"Mary's unique background combining education and experience in horticulture and marketing is a perfect match for us at the Gardens," said executive director Richard H. Daley.

Bonsai show moves to October

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society's annual show, usually held during Father's Day Weekend, is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 and 5, this year. The dates were changed to enable the bonsai society to host this year's American Bonsai Society's Annual Symposium June 12 to 15.

The June symposium, "ABS-97 Mountain Magic," will feature an incredible bonsai exhibit, a vendor's area selling bonsai supplies and expert demonstrations throughout the weekend. The national symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn Southeast and is open to the public. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, call Larry Jackel, 693-2991.

Sunset Garden Strolls begin this month

Soft music for summer evenings will be the centerpiece of the Sunset Garden Strolls. Guests are invited to saunter along DBG's meandering paths and enjoy the performances of a variety of musicians positioned throughout the Gardens.

June 11 marks the first of seven strolls. Appearing in the amphitheater will be Shenanigan, a traditional Celtic group that blends the sounds of guitar and dulcimer. Junko Shigeta's koto music will grace the Japanese Garden. In the Home Demonstration Garden visitors will discover Shawn Flink performing classical guitar. Trio Dubois, a woodwind trio featuring bassoon, flute and violin, will entertain in the Rock Alpine Garden.

The second stroll on June 18 highlights four more performing groups. Metro on the Mall Chorus will fill the amphitheater with songs, and harpist Margo Krimmel will play in the Home Demonstration Garden. In the Rock Alpine Garden, the Concordia String Quartet will delight listeners with classical sounds. In the Japanese Garden, Yoko Hiraoka's koto will charm visitors.

June 25 marks the final stroll of the month, with another medley of performances. Belinda Berry, flautist, and Rachel Williams, harpist, play in the Home Demonstration Garden. The amphitheater will play host to Southwind, a country duo featuring a fiddle and harmonica. Kitar blends the guitar, piano and flute in the Rock Alpine Garden. Junko Shigeta will play koto music in the Japanese Garden.

Guests can purchase nightly food specials from Pour la France!, DBG's summer caterer, or they can tote their own picnic dinners. Espresso and cappuccino by Espresso Affair will be for sale each night.

Future strolls are July 9, 23, Aug. 20 and 27. Member admission to each stroll is \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors and youth. Nonmember admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and youth. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. For more information, call 370-8187.

Take a Mount Goliath wildflower tour

Tundra flowers hold a special fascination for amateur and professional botanists—Mount Goliath, one of DBG's lesser known sites, is an exceptional place to observe them. Join a guided tour for a unique alpine mountain experience on the M. Walter Pesman Trail, a winding 1.5-mile downhill path that begins at 12,100 feet. You will see a fabulous display of alpine wildflowers, dramatic rock formations, windswept ancient bristlecone pines and remarkable views in all directions. Mount Goliath is located 17 miles from Idaho Springs on the road to the top of Mount Evans.

Tours are offered from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from June 24 through Aug. 7. Bertha Kondrotis, a sign language interpreter, will lead special tours on June 26 and July 19. All tours are lead by docents trained by DBG's professional staff and experts in mountain ecology, wildlife and plants. This new tour program is part of a larger program undertaken by DBG, the Garden Club of Denver and the U.S. Forest Service to improve the Mount Goliath trail and interpretation. Tours are free, but preregistration is requested. Call 370-8020.

Bristlecone club meets

If you are interested in timberline bristlecone pine trees, a group is forming to share information about this fascinating tree. The group will meet to exchange pictures, writings and information on the bristlecone pine, a tree that grows at DBG's Mount Goliath site, among other places. With the snow melting at higher altitudes, now is a great time to view these trees. For more information on the club, call Hal Grossman, 722-0800 or 752-9912.

Experts present day-long symposium

Learn from international gardening experts at a day-long symposium, "Classical Gardens: Contemporary Styles," Monday, June 16.

Internationally renowned Englishman Roy Lancaster will present, "The English Plantsman's Garden." Award-winning garden designer Robin Williams will discuss "Garden Design: The Route to Success." Local gardening expert Lauren Springer will address "The Layered Garden: How to Have it All in a Small Space."

The symposium is in Mitchell Hall. Cost for the day-long program, including lunch, is \$75 for members and \$90 for nonmembers. For information or to register call 370-8020 or 370-8019.

Employee of the month

Danni Hansen, secretary at Chatfield Arboretum, was voted by her co-workers as April's employee of the month. She was recognized for meeting all of the awards criteria and consistently showing commitment, cooperation and customer service. Her enthusiasm and overall positive attitude are seen as she frequently goes out of her way to take care of the Chatfield staff. Congratulations, Danni.

A June weekend features roses, water plants

Be sure to stop by the Gardens' Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center June 7 for the Denver Rose Society's Old Garden Roses Display beginning at 9 a.m. Some varieties will be for sale.

The Colorado Water Garden Society Water Plant Sale is at the Morrison Center June 8 from 10:30 a.m. until plants are sold out. Come early for best selection. For more information on either event see last month's newsletter, or call 370-8187.

Pumpkin fields planted at the Arboretum

If you haven't finished planting your summer vegetables, there's still time to add a pumpkin plant or two. It's especially rewarding to observe each fruit take the entire summer to grow and ripen.

Pumpkin plants are heavy feeders, so your garden soil should contain lots of organic matter and compost. They also are large water consumers; they require a thorough soaking at least weekly. If you satisfy these two basic requirements, the rest of the work is done by the plant.

There are many types of pumpkins to choose from, and even different colors. For those with visions of jack-o-lanterns dancing in their heads, try Howden, Big Mack or Connecticut Field. For those who like to stray from the traditional, Lumina produces a white-skinned pumpkin and Rouge D'Etempes, a very pretty flattened red-orange pumpkin. Some bush-type plants for smaller gardens are Oz, Jackpot and Trick or Treat. Baby Bear and Jack-be-Little varieties are good producers of the small, table decorating pumpkins.

Some insect pests can present obstacles to growing the perfect pumpkin. Cucumber beetles and squash bugs are the most prevalent. Cucumber beetles attack the foliage and can severely and quickly weaken your plant. They are controlled easily with several pesticides or by timing your cultivating just as the beetles emerge from the soil. At Chatfield Arboretum, we are trying some parasitic nematodes along with the cultivating practice. Squash bugs attach the ripening pumpkin. Since they are easy to see, hand-picking is very effective. Eggs, which are orange, can be seen on the underside of the leaves and can be rubbed off. Nymphs and adults are black and show up readily on leaves and fruit.

Harvest your pumpkins before the first hard frost of the season. They can withstand a few light frosts before damage starts to show. They will keep for several months if you can resist the temptation to carve them, so include a pumpkin plant in your vegetable garden this year. Come October, you'll be glad you did.

Kathy Kircher
Chatfield Arboretum



There's still time for pumpkins!

Expand your gardening horizons

This is the first in a series of monthly articles featuring the development of new gardens at DBG. As has been done in many past DBG publications, it is important to document the thought processes involved in the creation of new gardens, when they were established and who was involved, for historical purposes. In the coming months I will write about the gardens of the Romantic Gardens (Courtyard, Fragrance, Hildreth Shade, Waterway), the tropical conservatory and parking lot renovations.

Beginning this month, you can increase your knowledge of plants well-suited to Colorado's climate by visiting the "new horizons" garden. It is located just east of the vegetable garden at the site formerly occupied by the turf trial garden, established in 1989 to demonstrate different watering and mowing height regimes for a number of low water requiring types of turf grasses. Designed by Joann Narverud, the "new horizons" garden will display a variety of new or underused plants in a landscaped setting.

Ten large specimen trees and shrubs were relocated from the Romantic Gardens construction site near the lily and herb gardens to form the backbone of this garden. The impressive fastigiate scotts pines (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Fastigiata'), Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*), mature service berry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) and a rarely cultivated juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) were carefully placed to allow plenty of sunny exposures as well as areas with partial and full shade. In most cases, featured plants will be planted in two or three locations within this garden to demonstrate their versatility.

Many of the species to be planted in this garden are on the list of current and future Plant Select® recommended plants. In addition, other featured plants will be from: South African collecting trips; USDA research stations such as NC7 at Ames, Iowa; recommendations from local nurseries and garden centers; All America Selections; other botanical gardens and arboreta; and specialty programs associated with commercial nurseries.

Be sure to stop by often when visiting the Gardens and watch these unusual selections develop.

Jim Henrich
Director of Horticulture

September

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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September

at Chatfield Arboretum	1	Free Day at York Street
	4	Garden Concert: Ivan Lins
	5	Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
ll — <i>for members only!</i>	5	Fête des Fleurs
over	6	Gardeners of America Plant & Produce Sale
Sale	6, 7	Fall Gardening Fair
mposium	6, 7	Members Plant Dividend Day
	10	Behind-the-Scenes Tour — <i>Arbor Circle level members & above</i>
	12	Garden Concert: Rice, Rice, Hillman and Pederson
poore	13 - 15	Healing Power of Plants Program
	15	Free Day at York Street
	21	Breakfast & Early Morning Tour — <i>Botanist level members & above</i>
	21	Storytelling at the Gardens — <i>for members only!</i>
Cash	24	Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Gardens of Walt Disney World
Japanese Garden — <i>for members only!</i>	28	Waxman University Photography Workshop

isplay

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Be sure to stop by often when visiting the Gardens and watch these unusual selections develop.

Jim Henrich
Director of Horticulture



There's still time for pumpkins!



Denver Botanic Gardens Calendar of Events 1997

J

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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July

- 1 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 2 Senior Early Morning Stroll — *for members only!*
- 4 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Free Day at York Street
- 8 Behind-the-Scenes Tour — *Arbor Circle level members & above*
- Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 9 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 11 Garden Concert: Cassandra Wilson
- 10 BirdHaus Bash
- 11-27 BirdHaus Display
- 11 Garden Concert: Cassandra Wilson
- 12 Mile High Daylily Society Show
- 15 Members Picnic: A Night of A Capella — *for members only!*
- Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 16 Family Walkabout
- 19 Annual Butterfly Census at Chatfield Arboretum
- 19, 20 Region 20 Iris Society Sale
- 19, 20 American Indian Sunflower Festival
- 22 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 23 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 25 Garden Concert: Red Clay Ramblers
- 26 Breakfast & Early Morning Tour at Chatfield Arboretum —
Botanist level members & above
- 29 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 31 Garden Concert: Kevin Mahogany
- 31 - 8/10 "Glass at the Gardens" Stained Glass Show

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August						
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August

- 1 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 4 Free Day at York Street
- 5 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 6 Senior Early Morning Stroll — *for members only!*
- 7 & 8 Garden Concert: Julian Glover
- 9 & 10 Mile High Daylily Society Sale
- 12 International Water Lily Symposium
- Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 13 Family Walkabout
- 14 & 15 Garden Concert: Kevin Moore
- 16 & 17 Koi Club Show
- 19 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 20 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 21 Garden Concert: Rosanne Cash
- 25 New Member Party in the Japanese Garden — *for members only!*
- 26 Sunrise Fitness Walk
- 27 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 28 Garden Concert: Keb' Mo'
- 30 Denver Rose Society Show
- 30 - Nov. 16 Healing Power of Plants Display

September						
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September

- 1 Free Day at York Street
- 4 Garden Concert: Ivan Lins
- 5 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 5 Fête des Fleurs
- 6 Gardeners of America Plant & Produce Sale
- 6, 7 Fall Gardening Fair
- 6, 7 Members Plant Dividend Day
- 10 Behind-the-Scenes Tour — *Arbor Circle level members & above*
- 12 Garden Concert: Rice, Rice, Hillman and Pederson
- 13 - 15 Healing Power of Plants Program
- 15 Free Day at York Street
- 21 Breakfast & Early Morning Tour — *Botanist level members & above*
- 21 Storytelling at the Gardens — *for members only!*
- 24 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Gardens of Walt Disney World
- 28 Waxman University Photography Workshop

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October						
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October

- 3 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 4, 5 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show
- 6 Free Day at York Street
- 11 Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum
- 11, 12 Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale
- 18, 19 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Fall Sale
- 22 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Wild and Wonderful Arrangements
- 26 "Goblins in the Gardens" — *for members only!*

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November

- 5 Tempel Wildflower Lecture
- 7 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 New Frontier: Western Gardening Approaches Lecture
- 14, 15 Holiday Sale

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December						
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December

- 5 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 3, 4 "Herald the Season" — *for members only!*
- 6 Teddy Bear Teas
- 6 Blossoms of Light Tree-mendous Kickoff
at Chatfield Arboretum
- 6 Blossoms of Light Opening Ceremony
- 6 - 1/4 Blossoms of Light Holiday Festival
- 13 Teddy Bear Teas
- 14 Teddy Bear Teas

Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York Street
Denver, CO 80206
303.331.4000 • TDD 370.8032

Chatfield Arboretum
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road
Littleton, CO 80123
303.973.3705

Denver Botanic Gardens

Calendar of Events 1997

J

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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July

1	Sunrise Fitness Walk
2	Senior Early Morning Stroll — <i>for members only!</i>
4	Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
7	Free Day at York Street
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11	Garden Concert: Cassandra Wilson
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6	Senior Early Morning Stroll
7 & 8	Garden Concert: Julian
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12	International Water Lily Society Show Sunrise Fitness Walk
13	Family Walkabout
14 & 15	Garden Concert: Kevin Mahogany
16 & 17	Koi Club Show
19	Sunrise Fitness Walk
20	Sunset Garden Stroll
21	Garden Concert: Rosalind Wiseman
25	New Member Party in the Conservatory
26	Sunrise Fitness Walk
27	Sunset Garden Stroll
28	Garden Concert: Keb' Mo'
30	Denver Rose Society Show
30 - Nov. 16	Healing Power of Plants

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. What are some annuals that will grow in hot, dry, sunny locations?

A. Most annuals prefer plenty of sunshine and thrive during the warmth of summer. In fact, many species that we grow as annuals in Colorado are natives of tropical climates. Some annuals that enjoy drier conditions include sunflower, California poppy, bachelor's button, cosmos, blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella* cvs.), moss rose (*Portulaca grandiflora* cvs.), zinnia and annual coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria* cvs.). Fibrous rooted (wax) begonia, spider flower (*Cleome hasslerana* cvs.) and petunia are surprisingly drought tolerant too, once established.

Q. Why don't my tomatoes set fruit?

A. Tomatoes thrive in hot weather, so Colorado's cool evenings in early summer often get them off to a slow start. Pollen production is greatly reduced at temperatures below 60° F and nearly stops at temperatures lower than 50° F. You can help the situation somewhat by locating the plants where solar heating is maximized (e.g. near heat absorbing walls or structures), and it's likely that heat conserving techniques, such as black plastic mulch or "Wall-O-Water," could get pollination and fruit set started a bit sooner. Also, be careful not to wash the pollen away with too frequent sprinkler irrigation and avoid excessive applications of nitrogen fertilizers.



PLANTS

FROM THE PAGES OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Daphne

Daphne, a nymph loved by Apollo, fled Apollo's arduous attempts and sought the help of her mother, Gaia. Gaia felt sorry for her, and to thwart Apollo's attentions turned her daughter into a small tree. From then on Apollo considered the tree sacred and used it for purification. After his victory over Python, he wore its leaves as a wreath. Unfortunately, Carolus Linnaeus, who named the genus *Daphne* did not make a distinction between bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*, which most certainly was what Apollo wore) and what is now known as a genus of approximately 70 species of small shrubs, many with sweetly fragrant flowers.

Our Plant Select® *Daphne x burkwodii* 'Carol Mackie' was found in Carol Mackie's yard in Far Hills, N.J. The beautiful, cream-edged leaves were only found on one branch of her *Daphne x burkwodii*. In 1966 the original plant was moved to Watnog Nursery, and all subsequent plants, including those in the Plant Select® program, are clones of Mrs. Mackie's original plant.

Daphnes are wonderful garden plants because of their shape, foliage, fragrant flowers and colorful berries—but they also need to be treated with some caution if you have small children. Not all 70 species have been tested, but *D. mezereum*, *D. laureola*, *D. gnidium*, *D. cneorum* (one of the parents of 'Carol Mackie'), and *D. odora* contain chemicals that are poisonous and can be irritants to both humans and animals. Poisonous plant books all recommend great caution, because eating any part of the plant can cause potentially life-threatening symptoms, although the eater will be deterred by the very unpleasant taste of the plant. Daphne's beauty enriches our eyes and nose, but not our palette!

For information on daphnes, check out these books in Helen Fowler Library:

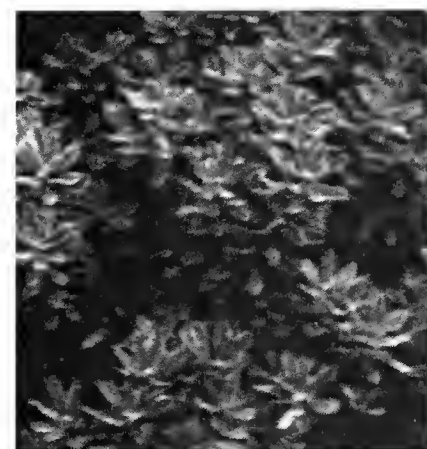
Baumann, Hellmut. *The Greek Plant World in Myth, Art and Literature*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1982. QK 83 .B38 1993.

Brickell, C.D. & B. Mathew. *Daphne: The Genus in the Wild and in Cultivation*. Woking, Surrey: Alpine Garden Society, 1976. QK 495 .T48 B75 1976.

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. 4th ed. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing Co., 1990. SB 435 .D577 1990 Ref.

Lampe, Kenneth F. & Mary Ann McCann. *AMA Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants*. Chicago, IL: American Medical Association, 1985. RA 1250 L2 1985 Ref.

Spoerke, David, Barbara Evans, & Barbara Linaburg. *The Hidden Hazards in House and Garden Plants*. Missoula, MT: Pictorial Histories Publishing, 1991. QK 100 .A1 S6 1991.



Daphne

Have you found a place in your garden for one of the 1997 Plant Select® recommended plants? Among the five you should be able to select one to suit almost any landscape. (See the April *Green Thumb News* for descriptions of all five plants.) If you're not a flower gardener, perhaps the Carol Mackie daphne would make a good choice. Even those horticulturists with an aversion to variegated cultivars find the sublime foliage of this shrub hard to ignore. Each narrow, dark green leaf is delicately edged in creamy-white.



Helen Fowler

Library's summer hours are
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.
Stop in and check out the great
selection of gardening books,
or call 370-8014.

Denver Recycles holds June compost classes

Denver Recycles continues its two-hour hands-on compost classes this month at its Backyard Composting Demonstration Site in the Gove Community Garden, 13th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. Classes are June 8 from 2 to 4 p.m., June 18 from 6 to 8 p.m., June 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. and June 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. Participants will learn how to make compost at home in just a few weeks. Classes are free, but registration at least one week before each class is required: call 640-1678.

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks those who began or renewed their memberships during the first quarter of 1997 at supporting levels.

Perennial Partners

Mr. & Mrs. Paul W. Burkett
Ms. Janice M. Ellis
Mr. Stephen R. Narans
Dr. & Mrs. Dilworth P. Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ward

Conservator's Society

Ms. Mary Ann Althaber
Ms. Cynthia Gamier
Ms. June Hammond
Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Horton Jr.
Mrs. Suzanne Kintzele
& Mr. Louis R. Kintzele Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Kugeler
Ms. Betsy Loeff
Mr. Douglas McCallum
& Ms. Diana Nepp
Dr. & Mrs. James McElhinney
Mr. Mark A. McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. John Moye
Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Musgrave
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Provost
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Shaner
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Sprinkle
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen M. Strachan
Mr. & Mrs. Spier D. Whitaker
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Zellmer

Botanist Club

Mr. John D. Abernathy
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D. Alexander
Ms. Florence Alexander
Mrs. Velma Andrews
Dr. & Mrs. Richard L. Angstadt
Ms. Kathryn L. Aragon
& Mr. Paul R. Franchois
Mr. & Mrs. Russell E. Atha III
Mr. Mrs. Michael Barish
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Bayard
Mr. Steve Beaudoin
& Mrs. Sherrill Beaudoin
Michael E. Beckett Esq.
Ms. Michelle Beckett
Mr. & Mrs. James Bente
Mr. & Mrs. Peter H. Blair
Ms. Hallie Blake
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& Mr. Burt Boothby
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Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Witzler
Ms. Suzanne Wohlgemuth
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Woodruff
Ms. Dianne Zimmerman

'Sunrise Fitness Walks' planned

Increase your fitness level this summer with a weekly morning walk at the Gardens. DBG will open early every Tuesday morning June 3 through Aug. 26 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. for your walking pleasure. Admission is free to both members and the general public, and you may enter at either the York Street or Cheesman gates.

Schedule a "Sunrise Fitness Walk" as a weekly event, and enjoy the changing landscape of the Gardens throughout the summer. Bring a friend and double your fun! For more information call 370-8018.



You are invited to the third annual BirdHaus Bash garden party and auction.

A preview of the BirdHaus Display July 11 to 27, featuring fun and fanciful feathered friend feeders and bird abodes.

**Thursday, July 10,
5:30 to 8 p.m.**

5:30 p.m. Silent Auction opens
(concludes following live auction)

7:15 p.m. Live Auction with
Scott Alexander, Kildow & Company

Catered by
Epicurean Catering

Complimentary beer and wine bar.
Cash bar also available.

\$45 per person
(\$22 tax-deductible contribution)

Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York St.
Call 370-8055 to reserve your spot.

From your membership office

Seniors can stroll free

DBG senior members are invited to bring a guest and stroll the Gardens on Wednesday, June 4, from 7 to 9 a.m. Reservations are not required and admission is free. Free coffee and rolls will be available near the front entrance, while supplies last. Future Senior Strolls are July 2 and Aug. 6. For more information call 370-8021.

A sundae treat for Father's Day

Members are invited to DBG on Father's Day Sunday, June 15, to enjoy an ice cream treat with Dad. Musical entertainment will be provided throughout the event, and kids will have the opportunity to make their dad a boutonniere to wear on his special day. The festivities will take place in the oak grove (watch for directional signs) from 1 to 3 p.m. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$2 per person; children younger than 2 are free. Tickets may be purchased at the event. For information or to make reservations call 370-8018.

New member party in the Home Demonstration Garden

New DBG members are invited to a party in the Home Demonstration Garden on Thursday, June 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand to guide short tours of the surrounding gardens. Wine and cheese will be provided, and classical guitarist Shawn Flink will entertain. For more information or to make reservations call 370-8018.

BirdHaus entries due this month

If you registered to enter the annual BirdHaus Competition and Display, don't forget that your entries are due to the Gardens June 25. The entries will be judged, then all will be displayed indoors and out July 11 to 27. A gala BirdHaus Bash preview party is planned for July 10. See your invitation below.

Take a peek behind the scenes

DBG members at the Arbor Circle level and above are invited to tour the production greenhouse areas on Tuesday, July 8. Tours will be offered at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. and will be led by DBG greenhouse staff members and volunteers. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 370-8018.

Annual picnic brings a night of a capella

Join in a night of a capella harmony at this year's annual member picnic on Tuesday, July 15. University of Colorado groups Extreme Measures and The Buffoons will entertain from 6 to 8 p.m. Children can create a special craft project and have their face painted. Bring your picnic supper, then enjoy an ice cream treat on us! Ice cream sandwiches, Popsicles and other frozen treats will be available throughout the night. Watch your mail for a special "Night of A Capella" invitation with price and reservation information.

Tributes

In honor of the 55th Wedding
Anniversary of Bob & Lee Cameron
Doug, Ginny, Leslee, Mike &
Anne Cameron

In memory of Raymond E. Froehler
Linda Davidson & Family
Bud Froehler
Kevin & Sherrie Froehler & Family
Lyle Froehler
Leona & Claude Lane
Amy & Pat O'Hanlon

In memory of Mary E. Houglund
Cherri Barela
Crestmoor Gardeners
Darlene & Harlan Holben
Shauna & Kenneth Levinson
Doris & John Miller

In memory of Martha B. Perry
Mr. & Mrs. Walter C. Emery
Syd Glick
Susan and Dick Kirk

In memory of George S. Reher
Dorothy Bianchi
Mona & Charles Brandes
Doris & Danny Cary & Family
Fran and Les Elson
Frankie Frankenbery
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Hosman
Patricia Lewis
Bette Michel
Charlene & John Mills
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Nieuwenhuis
Esther Press
Jeanne and Ferd Schmitz
Gordon Thomas

In memory of Anna Marie Ross
The Faciszewski Family
In memory of Elinor Schapiro
Doris Cain

In memory of Viola Swingle
Mr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert
In memory of Alex Warner
Mrs. Alex Warner

Birthdays... Anniversaries... Memorials...
You can make a contribution to the
Gardens in memory or in honor of
someone you love. It's a thoughtful trib-
ute and a helpful gift to our institution.
Please call (303) 370-8064 for more
information.

June

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Inside this Green Thumb News

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You're invited to the BirdHaus Bash!
page 7

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Coming Up:

June

- 1 Iris Society Region 20 Show
Japanese Tea Ceremony
- 2 Free Day at York Street
Perennials for Dummies
* *Romantic Roses*
* *The Perennial Advantage*
- 3 *Clematis: The Queen of Vines*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 4 Senior Early Morning Stroll—for members only
- 6 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Denver Rose Society Old Garden Roses Display
American Iris Society meeting
- 8 Colorado Water Garden Society Water Plant Sale
Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 9 * *Gardens With An Altitude*
Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 10 *City Kids Get Green*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 11 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 12 Denver Rose Society meeting
- 14 *Japanese Tea Ceremony*
Perennial Passions—Peonies, Hostas & Daylilies
Rose Tour at Fairmount Cemetery
American Iris Society meeting
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 15 Father's Day Ice Cream Social—for members only
Japanese Tea Ceremony
Rocky Mountain Branch of American Begonia Society meeting

- 16 Perennial Garden Symposium
* *Lessons in Arranging Fresh Flowers*
Pamper Yourself: Making Herbal Products
Snip & Tuck: Cooking with Herbs
- 17 * *Beginning Bonsai*
Herb Sampler for Beginners
Pressed Flowers & Herbs
* *The Impatient Gardener*
- 18 Sunset Garden Stroll
* *Plants as Educational Tools*
Herb Society of America meeting
North American Rock Garden Society meeting
- 19 New Member Party
Fragrant Herb Walk
- 20 Garden Concert: Solas
- 21 Herb Fair
Golden Gate Canyon State Park
- 24 *Introduction to Backyard Composting*
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
- 25 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 26 *Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours*
African Violet Society meeting
- 27 *Garden Tour of Proctor's & Macke's Garden*
- 28 *Garden Tour of Proctor's & Macke's Garden*
Japanese Tea Ceremony
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 29 *Japanese Tea Ceremony*

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

July 1997



Gardens flutter with birdhouses this month

Get ready for another year of spectacular birdhouses and bird feeders! More than 200 entries have been submitted for the third annual BirdHaus Display, which takes flight July 11 to 27. Neighborhood birds will be chirping with delight at the variety of structures submitted for this year's event. From old-time log cabins to modern birdseed restaurants, there will be an aviary abode or fine-feathered feeder for every sparrow and finch around.

A glimpse at this year's enticing entries reveals everything from a southwestern pueblo-style abode to an igloo, better suited for the Arctic. An edible "Gingerbird House" will attract the bird gourmands, while a patriotic "Wrendependence" should appeal to the more political plumes. The "Birdmobile," "Hot Air Birdoon" and "Bird Station Skywalker" will provide a vehicle for those winged creatures considering an alternative means of transportation. One structure will include a birdhouse, feeder and bath, all in one convenient location. Single-family homes, as well as more urban multi-unit housing structures will be on display.

Entries have been received from several elementary schools, architecture firms and other businesses, as well as from solo artists and craftsmen.

A gala BirdHaus Bash preview party and auction will kick off the event July 10 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Reservations are required for the Bash; tickets may still be available at \$45 each: call to reserve your spot, 370-8055.

Birdhouses and feeders will be displayed indoors and out during regular Gardens hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday through Tuesday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. It is included in general admission to the Gardens (free to members). Be sure to fly by and get ideas on how to build your own bird abode—your resident robins will be glad you did! For more information call 370-8064.



American Indian Sunflower Fest brightens DBG

Denver Botanic Gardens' 1997 Sunflower Festival will be Saturday and Sunday, July 19 and 20. The festival will celebrate the culture of American Indians and the sunflower's traditional and modern roles.



Sunflowers are native to America, and American Indians were the first to use sunflowers for culinary, medicinal and decorative purposes. Before corn or beans were introduced to North America, American Indians valued sunflowers for their many uses. They ate the seeds and ground the kernels into oatmeal and flour. To make a coffee-like drink, seeds were roasted and the shells were finely ground. Oil and yellow dye were extracted from the seeds, and the roots were used to make medicines for snakebites and rheumatism. From the flower, ointments were made to heal burns.

Not only will festival-goers see plenty of sunflowers, but they also will learn about American Indian traditions. American Indian cultural demonstrations will be offered throughout the weekend. John Emhoolah will start each morning in the outdoor amphitheater with children's storytelling. Later in the morning, Amber Rose Belindo will recite a Shakespearean sonnet in the Lakota language. Hopi dancers will complete each morning. A flute performance by Eriks Humeyumptew will begin following lunch. Each afternoon will include storytelling and traditional dancing.

Shoppers will find a variety of American Indian crafts, decorations and food. Demonstrations planned throughout the weekend will include Emma Yazzie, Navajo weaving; Katie Castillo, beadwork; and Peter Sherwood, silverwork. Visitors also can buy authentic American Indian frybread from Intertribal Frybread.

Children can paint Indian pots from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. In addition, other Denver cultural organizations will sponsor children's projects during the weekend.

The festival is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Cost is included in general admission fees (free to members). For more information call 370-8187.

Green Thumb News July 1997

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for September issue: July 18

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	331-4009
<i>9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

Relatively little known is Denver Botanic Gardens' trail and natural area below the summit of Mt. Evans, a location known as the Mt. Goliath Natural Area. It is a magnificent alpine destination open to the public and includes a beautiful stand of bristlecone pines. It is a breathtaking place to visit.

The natural area is part of the U.S. Forest Service property on Mt. Evans, and DBG has "operated" it under a cooperative agreement with the Forest Service for many years, but seldom with much vigor.

Now, thanks to the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of the Garden Club of Denver, all this is changing. Under the leadership and inspiration of president Debbie Davis and chairman of this project Carol Schutz, the Garden Club has taken on Mt. Goliath as a major three-year project. As a result, this natural area will be used and interpreted better than ever in its history.

An interpretative display featuring the Mt. Goliath Natural Area was developed by the Garden Club of Denver, DBG's horticulture, education and research staff and the Forest Service. The exhibit is available to travel.

A trail guide featuring color drawings of the plants of Mt. Evans was created to make the public far more knowledgeable of the diverse flora of Mt. Evans. Wildflowers were drawn by Garden Club member and long-time leader of DBG's botanical illustration program Angela Overy, and by Dr. Jan Wingate, DBG's herbarium manager.

Garden Club members and DBG volunteers have been training with Gardens staff to learn about the flora and natural history of the site, and guided tours on the trail through Mt. Goliath, the M. Walter Pesman Trail, will be offered this summer. For information on tours, call our education office, 370-8020.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Members probably have noticed more wide open spaces in the Gardens' public parking lot—trees have been removed to prepare for the lot expansion. All of the trees were relocated to other areas in the Gardens, given to area organizations such as Parks and Recreation or cut down and mulched when they could not be successfully transplanted. Construction of the lot should be completed by early fall, and then our horticulturists will go to work relandscaping. The end result should be not only more functional, holding twice as many cars, but also more beautiful to people driving by. While the lot is under construction, be sure to take advantage of the free shuttle service from the Glendale Target during concerts and major events.

Work on the Romantic Gardens has started. You can peek between the colorful construction fences and get a first-hand look at the progress the next time you are visiting the Gardens. Soon, plants will have been removed from the tropical conservatory. The skeleton of the building, without plants inside, will be quite a different site—check out the photo of this amazing space on your next walk through the lobby court.

Fitness walks continue each Tuesday in July

Increase your fitness level this summer with a weekly morning Sunrise Fitness Walk through the Gardens. DBG will open early every Tuesday morning through Aug. 26 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Early morning risers can take a walk through the ever-changing 23 acres and get fit in a safe area while enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Admission is free to both members and the general public. The York Street and Cheesman gates will be open. Bring a neighbor and introduce them to your Gardens! For more information call 370-8018.

Membership & development director appointed

Jennifer Darling has been named DBG's director of membership and development.

Darling obtained her bachelor of arts degrees in economics and political science from Northwestern University. Before joining DBG, she was the director of annual giving at Colorado School of Mines. She also served as the corporate affairs manager for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, where she conducted fundraising campaigns for corporate, foundation and individual giving.

Darling is an active volunteer in her community. She is president of the board of directors for the Table Mountain Animal Center Foundation and an active member of the Colorado Association of Nonprofit Organizations, National Society of Fundraising Executives and Northwestern University Alumni Association.

"Jennifer has a wide range of fundraising and nonprofit experience," said DBG executive director Richard H. Daley. "She is an important asset to our organization in communicating with our donors as well as current and potential members of the Gardens."

Garden Concerts in full-force this month

Denver Botanic Gardens' Garden Concerts continue this month in full-force.

Cassandra Wilson, one of the most acclaimed of the new generation of jazz divas, appears Friday, July 11. Her recent projects have included "Blood on the Fields," the Pulitzer-prize winning Wynton Marsalis oratorio.

On Friday, July 25, The Red Clay Ramblers offer legendary American traditional music. They perform a light-hearted American music called "String Band" or "Old Timey." The group has performed in the theatrical production of "Fool Moon" on Broadway and in Los Angeles.

Thursday, July 31, features Kevin Mahogany, the first important male jazz vocalist to appear since Mel Torme. He often is called "...the kind of singer that makes you want to sit down and listen."

Tickets to each July concert are \$19 (\$16 for members at the Arbor Circle level and above).

In the coming months, watch for Julian Glover performing *Beowulf* Aug. 7 and 8; Kevin Moore performing *Crocodiles in Cream* Aug. 14 and 15; Rosanne Cash singing country-folk tunes Aug. 21; Keb' Mo' playing Grammy-winning blues Aug. 28; Ivan Lins singing Brazilian jazz Sept. 4; and Rice, Rice, Hillman & Pederson joining for an acoustic end to the series Sept. 12.

All concerts begin at 7:15 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Pour la France! once again is offering pre-ordered box dinners to enjoy before or during the show. You also may bring your own picnic dinner.

Since parking is limited around the Gardens, plan on leaving your car in DBG's satellite parking lot. The lot is at the south end of the Glendale Target store, 4301 E. Virginia Ave. After parking your car, hop on the Gardens' free double decker shuttle buses that take you to and from the concerts. All bus riders will receive a free DBG admission pass to use at a later date. Note that most street parking is off-limits around the Gardens. If you drive, please mind all "no parking" signs to avoid a costly ticket.

Garden Concerts are presented by Security Life of Denver and sponsored by *The Denver Post*. Production is by Jim Sprinkle Productions. To order tickets, call 777-3836, or visit the ticket box office at DBG's front entrance Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Watch the August newsletter for more information on late-summer concerts and theater productions.

Arboretum butterfly census takes flight

The graceful flight and flashing colors of butterflies can attract even the least of outdoor enthusiasts to take a second look. Now, imagine a group of individuals passionately drawn to these fluttering insects, and get them together with a mission: to count Colorado's butterflies.

Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and the Xerces Society, and with professional assistance from the Butterfly Pavilion, the sixth annual Butterfly Census at Chatfield Arboretum will be held Saturday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The purpose of the annual count is to determine if there has been a change in Colorado's butterfly population. With some educated guessing, hypothesis, data and research, experts can conclude that a species increase or decrease may be because of weather changes or patterns, habitat creation or destruction, pesticide use or just plain unusual.

Volunteers of all ages make up the census groups that visit less than 10 sites in Colorado. More than 100 species have been recorded in Colorado, and almost 800 individual butterflies have been counted in one year. Last year at the Arboretum, 21 species were recorded, and 278 individual species were counted.

Colorado has been involved with butterfly censusing since 1975. The Arboretum is one of the few sites in the state that provides valuable research concerning these light-winged beauties.

If you are interested in joining the fun, please be prepared for Colorado's hot weather. Sunscreen, water and a snack is recommended, and if you have a butterfly net, this is the time to bring it along and not feel silly. As a participant, if you would like to donate to the cause and be registered as an official census recorder, please bring \$3. Nonmembers older than 16 also must pay the \$1 admission fee to the Arboretum. For more information call 973-3705.

DBG participates in Black Arts Festival

DBG again will participate in the 11th annual Black Arts Festival in Denver's City Park Friday, July 11, through Sunday, July 13. This cultural event usually draws 200,000 participants.

DBG's display will detail the medicinal plants of Africa—both children and adults will appreciate the activities and handouts. Make sure you're one of the first people to see this exhibit—it will preview a display at the Gardens this fall.

In addition to educational displays, Festival '97 will feature an authentic African village, artistic displays, a performance stage and a Watu-Sokoni (people's marketplace) that offers various Afro-centric food, goods and gifts.

Employee of the month

Carol Dawson, DBG's manager of research programs, was voted by her co-workers as May's employee of the month. Carol was chosen for her initiative, enthusiasm, leadership, cooperation, commitment to the Gardens and outstanding job performance. Her involvement in the "Incredible Edibles" series helped make it a success and exemplified what a collaboration approach really is. She also is recognized for her outstanding performance on the Mt. Goliath project and in forming and managing her department. Congratulations, Carol!

A look at All-America Selections

All-America Selections (AAS), initiated in 1932, was the brainchild of prominent seedsman Ray Hastings. The program was immediately popular because it offered small-scale breeders who lacked the means for testing and promoting outstanding new varieties an avenue to commercial success.

AAS maintains more trial gardens throughout the U.S. and Canada than any other similar program in the world. Currently there are 31 flower judging locations and 26 vegetable judging locations in various climates across North America. In addition to the trial gardens, AAS display gardens in more than 160 locations grow the current, future and past years' winners to showcase them to the general public.

The judge at each trial garden location evaluates every entry's performance in that garden, so only those plants scoring well throughout most of the system win awards. Judges include top horticultural breeders, experts and educators. Based on the number of points garnered, winning plant selections are awarded gold, silver or bronze medals.

Past AAS winners acknowledge many "firsts" in the garden world; yet even in gardening, preferences change. While some past winners have enjoyed tremendous initial popularity only to fade from view as they parented yet better varieties, others have withstood the test of time.

One of the first winners in 1933, 'Golden Gleam' nasturtium, is yet available. 'Thumbelina', the first miniature zinnia, won the rarely awarded gold medal in 1963 and still remains a strong seller. The first annual foxglove, 'Foxy', was an AAS winner in 1967. 'Majestic Giants' pansy won a bronze medal in 1966 and was the first of the giant flowered hybrids so popular today.

'Dark Opal' basil, a useful culinary herb that masquerades as a colorful ornamental, won a bronze medal in 1962. Diligent gardeners can still track down seeds of the tomato hybrid 'Jubilee', a bronze medal winner in 1943. The same may be said of 'Comet' radish (silver medal, 1936), 'Waltham Butternut' squash (bronze medal, 1970) and 'Lochief' corn (gold medal, 1951).

Other familiar flower varieties that have won AAS awards include 'Pink Queen' cleome, 'Peter Pan' hybrid zinnia, 'Madame Butterfly' snapdragon, 'Carefree' geranium and 'Diablo' cosmos. 'Buttercrunch' lettuce, 'Imperator' carrot and 'Topcrop' bean are among past vegetable winners.

The six 1997 awards include three vegetables: 'Dynamo' cabbage, 'Cajun Delight' okra and 'Siam Queen' Thai basil. 'Gypsy' baby's breath and 'Prestige Scarlet' celosia are flower award winners. Zinnia angustifolia 'Crystal White', won a 1997 medal in the bedding plant category.

Locally, Welby Gardens (7390 Clayton St.), is the region's AAS trial garden, and DBG is one of five AAS display gardens in Colorado. At DBG the AAS winners are planted in various locations in our summer bedding displays.



The region's AAS trial garden at Welby Gardens.

Ten genera of small trees and shrubs that attract birds

Amelanchier spp. (serviceberry)

Berberis spp. (barberry)

Crataegus spp. (hawthorn)

Juniperus spp. (juniper)

Malus spp. & cvs. (crab apple)

Prunus spp. (plum/cherry)

Pyracantha spp. & cvs. (firethorn)

Rosa spp. (climbing & shrub rose)

Sambucus spp. (elderberry)

Sorbus spp. (mountain ash)

Attracting birds to your garden

Encouraging birds to nest in your yard is really quite simple. When choosing a place to settle down, birds have the same basic requirements as most people—a comfortable place to live that is convenient to adequate supplies of food and water.

Good nesting sites aren't necessarily where you might suppose. Although a few species build conspicuous nests high in the treetops, most prefer secluded sites between five and 15 feet off the ground. Large shrubs and small trees with branches that allow for easy escape, yet are dense enough to deter predators, are ideal. Thorny plants are most prized.

Other requirements of the nest site are branches that can bear the nest's weight that grow at angles suitable to support the sides of the structure. Plant foliage needs to protect the nest from sun and rain as well as hide it from view. Nests often are built in junipers and similar small evergreens, deciduous shrub borders or thickets and dense climbing vines.

Sufficient quantities of fruit, seeds and insects are necessary to keep small birds adequately fed. This is not to say that any of the three must be served to them. Mother Nature is well prepared to provide for our feathered friends with minimal assistance from us. Grow plant species that produce small fruit and seed. Avoid dead-heading every blossom on every plant so that fruit and seed may form. Reduce pesticide usage so the birds can have an opportunity to control insect pests for you.

Birds need water both for drinking and bathing. Many types of birdbaths are available that can satisfy both requirements. If the manufactured sort is unappealing to you, look for a rather flat rock or stone with a concave face that can serve the purpose. Whatever style you choose, be sure to change the water every day or two.

Birds, animals and insects bring purpose and animation to gardens. By taking a few minutes to survey your yard with a potential nester's eye, it should be easy to note improvements that will attract more birds to the area.



Bird names in the Gardens

As you stroll through the Gardens looking at the birdhouses entered in the BirdHaus Competition and Display, you can also look for the following plants on the list to the right that have common names that have something to do with birds. Common names for plants vary from region to region, so you won't necessarily find these names on the labels for these plants. You can be sure, though, to find the botanical name on the label. See if you can conjecture why the plants have come to be known by these bird and bird part names.

Our new gardens: The fragrance garden

Fragrances are alluring, intriguing, stimulating, mood-setting and more. Fragrances can be sweet, acrid, flowery, spicy, musky, fruity or even offensive. In the plant world flowers, fruits, bark, roots, leaves and stems can be fragrant.

The fragrance garden, one of four gardens in the Romantic Gardens complex (also to include the courtyard, waterway and Hildreth shade gardens), will begin construction this summer with completion anticipated for spring 1998. The original concept for a fragrance garden at DBG dates back to 1990, when a design and plant list was created by EDAW in Ft. Collins. In 1992, the concept was incorporated into the new facility plan by Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) from Pittsburgh, Penn.

The fragrance garden design by EPD features a central oval turf area surrounded by ground-level beds and raised planters, a pool for water lilies, arbors for vines, walls and a fence for espaliers. A gardenesque brick walk, like that of the perennial walk, will provide an informal pathway through the garden. The retaining wall of the raised planter will provide seating, as will several benches.

Horticulture staff and members of the Plant Collections Committee have been making selections for the plant list; this will continue through the summer. Look for fragrant plant parts from annuals, perennials, bulbs, vines, aquatic plants, shrubs and trees.

Think about a plant or garden fragrance and you can most likely associate it with your childhood, a special occasion or another important memory. Make new memories by visiting the fragrance garden often in 1998 and in years to come.

Jim Henrich
Director of Horticulture

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. What is the minimum size of pruning wound that requires treatment with tree wound dressing?

A. Spraying or painting a tree's pruning wounds with commercial tree wound dressing, paint, tar or other compound is of no value to the tree, regardless of branch or limb size.

Q. Would you suggest some edible flowers I may incorporate into my summer cuisine?

A. Most gardeners are aware that nasturtium and pansy flowers can provide a colorful, edible garnish for salads, cold soups and sandwiches. Chrysanthemum petals are sometimes used in Chinese dishes. The outer petals of marigold flowers are edible, too. Small-flowered types like 'Lemon Gem' reputedly have the best flavor. How about roses on the menu? Generally speaking, the more fragrant the rose, the more flavor it has. Carnation and gladiolus blossoms also may be consumed. Daylily buds are said to taste like a cross between asparagus and zucchini when sautéed. Those less than 2 inches in length are tastiest. Scented geranium flowers may be used to flavor cakes. The flavor of various types of flowers seems to differ considerably between cultivars, so sample prospective edibles to determine their palatability. Obviously, verify safety before eating any flower. Be sure to rinse blossoms thoroughly to remove any aphids, small spiders or other unwanted protein. Do not eat any blossoms from plants that have been treated with pesticides.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.

Plants with bird names

Botanic Gardens House Garden
Bird's foot ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Guinea-hen flower (*Fritillaria meleagris*)
Chatfield Arboretum and the Plains Garden
Feather grass (*Stipa* sp.)
Gay feather (*Liatris* sp.)
Gates Garden
Goose plum (*Prunus americana*)
Home Demonstration Garden
Bloody cranesbill (*Geranium sanguineum*)
Feather reed grass
(*Calamagrostis x acutiflora*)
Japanese Garden
Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center
Bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
O'Fallon Perennial Walk
Gooseneck loosestrife
(*Lysimachia clethroides*)
Rock Alpine Garden
Bird-on-the-wing or gay-wings
(*Polygala paucifolia*)
Bird's foot sedge (*Carex ornithopoda*)
in the Alpine House
Cock thorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*)
Crowfoot (*Ranunculus* sp.)
Cuckoo-pint (*Arum maculatum*)
Duck plant (*Sutherlandia frutescens*)
Hairy canary clover (*Dorycnium hirsutum*)
Hawkbait (*Leontodon* sp.)
Hawkweed (*Hieracium* sp.)
Rose Garden
Rosa 'Golden Wings'
Rosa 'White Wings'
Water Gardens
Duckweed or duck meat (*Lemna minor*)
Duck potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
Wingsong Garden
Bird cherry (*Prunus padus* and *Prunus pensylvanica*)
Black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Common names from *The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening*. New York: Stockton Press, 1992. SB 450.95 .D53 1992 Ref.

Family Walkabouts are new treats for kids

Family Walkabouts, new to DBG's summer line-up, are planned for July 16 and Aug. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. The Walkabouts are similar to the Gardens' wildly successful Sunset Garden Strolls. Families will encounter a wide variety of entertaining adventures—music, science, stories, theater, games and a healthy dose of frolicking—as the skip through the blooming Gardens. Families are encouraged to use DBG's off-site parking lot at the Glendale Target, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and ride the double-decker bus to and from the Walkabouts—the whimsical ride will complete your adventure!

You can purchase your tickets in advance by calling 777-3836, or you may pay at the front gate the evening of the Walkabout. Admission for member adults and children is \$4; nonmember cost is \$6. Children 2 and younger are admitted free. For more information call 370-8187.

Stroll into the sunset

Visitors can enjoy evening strolls through the Gardens from 6 to 8 p.m. select Wednesdays this summer. Upcoming strolls are July 9, 23, Aug. 20 and 27. Each evening will feature musical entertainment and special menu items for sale by Pour la France!, DBG's summer caterer.

July 9 "Shenanigan" will play traditional Celtic music; a Japanese Shakuhachi flute player will perform; Shawn Flink will play classical guitar; and "Trio Dubois" will mix bassoon, flute and violin music.

At the July 23 stroll, "Flarp" will combine flute and harp music; "Southwind" will blend the sounds of fiddle and harmonica; "Kitar" will offer a mixture of guitar, flute and piano music; and the Japanese Shakuhachi flute player will return.

Food fare will include a "Colorado Barbecue" menu July 9, with a choice of barbecue brisket or chicken sandwiches. A "Down on the Bayou" menu will feature blackened chicken sandwiches July 23. Visitors also may bring a picnic dinner. Ice cream and beverages, including gourmet coffee, will be for sale. DBG's newly expanded gift shop will be open for your shopping pleasure.

Preregistration is not necessary—pay at the front gate the evening of the stroll. Admission for members is \$3 for adults, \$1 for youth and seniors. Nonmember cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth and seniors. Children 5 and younger are admitted free.

Watch next month's newsletter for information on the August strolls, or call 370-8187.



This year the Denver Rose Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, the society planted several 'Golden Celebration' roses at sites around the city—including DBG. On May 19, Denver Rose Society president Pat Allen and DBG's director of horticulture Jim Henrich planted the rose in the May Bouffils Stanton Rose Garden. Rose garden horticulturist Loddie Dolinski helped by preparing the area to be planted.

Learn all about orchids

The Denver Orchid Society will hold an orchid symposium Saturday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Whether you're a beginning grower or an orchid connoisseur, this is your opportunity to learn from the experts. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with Judy White, an award-winning writer and photographer, presenting "The Plant-Killer's Guide to Orchids." White is the author of *The Taylor's Guide to Orchids*.

At 10 a.m. Alan Koch will talk about the "Building Blocks of Cattleya Breeding." Koch has a strong horticultural background and is on the research committee for the American Orchid Society. He travels throughout the country giving entertaining lectures and judging orchid shows.

James Rose, orchid hybridizer, will present "*Neofinetia falcata*—Its History and Hybrids" at 11 a.m. Rose runs one of the largest commercial orchid collections in the U.S., Cal-Orchid. He has lectured at four World Orchid Conferences and several South African Orchid Conferences.

After a lunch break the speakers will return with more information. At 1 p.m. White will talk about "The Idiot's Guide to Orchids on the Internet." At 2 p.m. Koch will present "Modern Cattleya Hybrids." Rose will end the day at 3 p.m. with "Zygopetalums and Their Relatives."

You can attend just one lecture, or as many as you like. The symposium is included with general admission to the Gardens (free to members). For more information call Jim Flor, 733-1879.

Rainbow of color on display at daylily show

The Mile High Daylily Society will hold its annual show at the Gardens Saturday, July 12, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Hundreds of daylilies will be displayed in full bloom. Visitors can see flowers in every color but blue, from miniatures to large-flowering specimens. Doubles and spider-form varieties also will be featured. The show coincides with the Gardens' Daylily Garden entering its peak blooming season. Plenty of experts will be available to offer growing advice.

The show is included with general admission to the Gardens (free to members). Watch next month's newsletter for information on the Daylily Sale Aug. 9 and 10. For more information call 331-4000.

Get your irises at DBG sale this month

Region 20, the local chapter of the American Iris Society, will hold its annual iris rhizome sale at DBG on Sunday, July 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local society members have divided and dug their favorite dwarf, intermediate, tall bearded and aril iris in a multitude of colors. They will be for sale just at the right time for gardeners to buy and plant them. The sale is a great opportunity to ask expert iris growers questions while picking out your own selections. The sale is included with general admission to the Gardens (free to members). For more information call Mark Timonier, 456-5742.

National mushroom conference in Colorado

The Colorado Mycological Society will sponsor the North American Mycological Association's (NAMA) 1997 national conference in Copper Mountain Aug. 14 to 17. As a result, the annual Mushroom Fair will not be held at Denver Botanic Gardens this August.

The foray's theme is "Colorado Mycology: A Symbiosis Between Amateur and Professional Mycologists." It has been named in honor of Dr. D.H. (Sam) Mitchel, the founder of DBG's Herbarium of Fungi. NAMA is the largest amateur mycological society in North America, with approximately 2,000 members in the U.S. and Canada. It has been in existence for more than 30 years and can take credit for providing many important services to amateur mushroom hunters. Each year the national conference is held in a different part of the U.S.

Copper Mountain Resort is an ideal place for a NAMA foray because there is a wide variety of mushroom habitats close by. This year Dr. Joseph Ammirati will be the chief mycologist. He and other mycological experts will be identifying mushrooms and giving talks on mushroom related topics each day. There also will be daily forays to nearby national forests and a dinner and talk each evening. There will be classes for beginners as well as fungus aficionados.

If you are interested in learning more about Colorado's wild mushrooms, plan to attend. Registration is limited: call Larry Renshaw for more information: 688-1294.

Tributes

In memory of Raymond Froehler

Linda Davidson

In memory of Phil Hayward

Syd Glick

Mr. & Mrs. Moras L. Shubert

In memory of Ester Hill

Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Clark

In memory of Mary Hougland

Crestmoor Gardeners Garden Club

In memory of Frank B. Larcom

Patricia Zickefoose

In memory of G.E. Oppenneer

Mr. & Mrs. Newell M. Grant

In memory of Martha B. Perry

Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of George S. Reher

Lillian F. Hildebrand

Kaiser-Hill Company

Mary B. Rawllins

Joseph & Patricia Turowski

Birthdays... Anniversaries... Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

From your membership office

Senior member strolls

Senior members and their guest are invited to stroll the Gardens in the glory of early morning this month on Wednesday, July 2, from 7 to 9 a.m. Complimentary coffee and rolls will be available while supplies last. Reservations are not required. The final senior stroll is planned for Aug. 6. Please call 370-8021 with questions.

Members picnic brings a 'Night of A Capella'

DBG members and their guests are invited to the annual members picnic, "A Night of A Capella," on Tuesday, July 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Special entertainment will include music from University of Colorado a capella groups The Buffoons and Extreme Measures, a children's craft activity and face painting. Boxed dinners will be available, or you may bring your own picnic. Complimentary assorted ice cream bars will be provided for everyone.

Because parking around the Gardens is limited, members should park at DBG's off-site lot, the Glendale Target at 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and ride the free double decker shuttle bus to and from the picnic. Buses will run from 6 to 9 p.m.

The price is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children older than 2. Children 2 and younger may attend free. Reservations must be made by July 11. Call the DBG special events line, 370-8187, or look for your special invitation in the mail, and send in your reservation form soon!

Breakfast and tour at Chatfield Arboretum

Members at the Botanist Club level and above are invited to a continental breakfast and tour at Chatfield Arboretum on Saturday, July 26, from 8 to 10 a.m. Volunteer naturalist guides will be on-hand to lead tours and answer questions about the Arboretum. Reservations are required: please call 370-8018 by July 24.

A behind-the-scenes adventure!

Members at the Arbor Circle level and above are invited to an exciting tour of DBG's production greenhouse areas. Tours will take place at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8. Musical entertainment will be provided by harpist Lily Kellogg, and light refreshments will be available during the event. Reservations are required and limited: please call 370-8018 by Monday, July 7.

Glass sparkles at DBG

The Glass Artist's Fellowship of Denver will present its 18th annual Glass at the Gardens stained glass show in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall July 31 through Aug. 10.

Most forms of glass art will be represented at this regional glass art show that attracts artists from New Mexico to Montana, from Nebraska to California. A very popular category for blown glass was introduced last year, and this year, a new medium will be included: painting with light. Powdered glass is artistically arranged on a piece of glass, then the piece is fired. The results are spectacular.

Most of the pieces in the show will be for sale, and there will be a "small objects" sale as well. These items will range from sandblasted vases and lamps to ornaments and jewelry. Prices for many of the small objects start at just a few dollars. A percentage of all sales will benefit DBG.

The show will be open every day during regular Gardens hours. It also will be open during the Garden Concert July 31, the Senior Morning Stroll Aug. 6 and the Garden Theater Aug. 7 and 8. Glass at the Gardens is included in DBG's general admission fees (free to members). For more information call 370-8187.

July

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Denver Botanic Gardens

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Address correction requested

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July

- 1 *Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours*
- 2 Senior Early Morning Stroll—for members only!
- 3 *Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours*
- 4 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Free Day at York Street
- 8 Behind-the-Scenes Tour—Arbor Circle level members & above
Flower Drawing Demonstration with Watercolor Pencils
* *Iridescent Buzzing Bombers: Hummingbirds*
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 9 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 10 BirdHaus Bash
Aromatherapy Part I
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
- 11 Summer Series Concert: Cassandra Wilson
- 11-27 BirdHaus Display
- 12 Mile High Daylily Society Show
Close-up Flower Photography
Japanese Tea Ceremony
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
Rocky Mountain Horticulture II
Rocky Mountain National Park
* *Trough Garden Workshop*
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 13 *Japanese Tea Ceremony*
- 14 *Summer Rose Care*
Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 15 Members Picnic: A Night of A Capella—for members only!
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
* *Native Plants & Wildflowers in the Landscape*
* *Night Lights: The Effects of Landscape Lighting*
* *Starting to Draw Flowers with Watercolor Pencils*
- 16 Family Walkabout
* *Summer Flower Arranging*
Herb Society of America meeting
- 17 *Aromatherapy Part II*
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
- 19 Annual Butterfly Census at Chatfield Arboretum
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
Photographic Painting
* *Summertime Botany*
- 19, 20 American Indian Sunflower Festival
Region 20 Iris Society Sale
- 20 Rocky Mountain Branch of American Begonia Society meeting
- 21 * *Linocut Block Print*
- 22 *Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours*
- 23 Sunset Garden Stroll
- 24 *Aromatherapy Part III*
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
- 25 Summer Series Concert: Red Clay Ramblers
- 26 Breakfast & Tour at the Arboretum—Botanist level members & above
Denver Orchid Society seminar
Boreas Pass
Flowers, Bees & Thee
Japanese Tea Ceremony
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
* *Watercolor Painting*
- 27 *Japanese Tea Ceremony*
- 29 *Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours*
* *Tropical Trees: Beginning Indoor Bonsai*
- 31 Summer Series Concert: Kevin Mahogany
Medicinal and Wild Foods Walk
Mount Goliath Wildflower Tours
- 31 - Aug. 10 "Glass at the Gardens" stained glass show

Note: Classes are in italics. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

August 1997



Gardens receives museum accreditation

Denver Botanic Gardens recently was awarded the highest honor an institution can receive: reaccreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM).

The AAM is a national organization representing the museum community and addressing its needs, thereby enhancing the ability of museums to serve the public interest. AAM accredited status signifies both quality and accountability. It provides documentary evidence that an institution is operating according to current professional standards and practices, manages its collections and finances responsibly and is committed to providing quality service to the public.

DBG is one of only 12 botanic gardens accredited by the AAM nationally, and one of 19 Colorado organizations. The reaccreditation process is a long, rigorous process that requires the contribution of all staff and board members to evaluate, monitor and improve their own performance.

"Pursuit of accreditation is a demanding process, but our staff and board of trustees found it a valuable and rewarding experience," said Richard H. Daley, DBG's executive director. "The information and self-knowledge acquired through our participation in the program will continue to guide us in serving the public. It is an accomplishment in which we take great pride."

Celebrate this achievement by visiting your Gardens and exploring its programs and exhibits.

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Fall Gardening Fair wraps up blooming season

Do you want to have a truly spectacular garden next spring? The Fall Gardening Fair Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is your chance to learn gardening secrets from experts. Weekend activities include workshops, gardening demonstrations, garden tours, talks on plant care and children's activities. Experts from the Gardens staff, local greenhouses and garden centers will share their secrets with the public.

Specific "top ten" activities include learning how to 1) revitalize your perennials; 2) extend the fall flowering season; 3) choose beginner and connoisseur perennials; 4) plant fall bulbs; 5) prepare your soil; 6) grow herbs at your windowsill; 7) attract birds; 8) prune and care for woody plants; 9) grow roses; 10) re-pot your houseplants and 10) tour the library to research books on fall planting.

The Gardeners of America will hold its annual produce sale on Saturday while supplies last. Produce grown at DBG also will be available, as well as chile pepper tasting from DBG's popular chile garden.

Local plant societies will staff booths to answer questions on specific plants, such as orchids, daylilies, irises, water plants and African violets. There also will be tours of selected areas of the Gardens, and DBG staff members and volunteers will show how to save seeds from a vegetable garden. Dr. Green, DBG's plant information specialist, will be available to answer gardening questions.

Be sure to stop by the "Gardening Good 'N Easy" booth to inspect—and buy—the gardening tools on display that add leverage, reach and comfort, and minimize strain. These tools, as well as books and other gardening information, will be for sale in DBG's gift shop.

A special treat for DBG members is the annual plant dividend—a free plant per membership—that can be picked up either day. The plants are grown in DBG's own greenhouses and specially selected by the horticulture staff. (See page 7 for a preview of available plants.)

All Fall Gardening Fair activities are included with admission to the Gardens (free to members). The gardening programs are co-sponsored by DBG, Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association and Garden Centers of Colorado.

Whether you are a beginning, intermediate or advanced gardener, you will find many ideas at DBG's Fall Gardening Fair. This is your opportunity to discover why fall is a great time for gardening.



Green Thumb News August 1997

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edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for October issue: Aug. 15

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed major holidays.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8003
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

Botanic gardens are unique institutions that share much in common with other institutions; but taken together with our horticultural displays, education programs for children and adults, and botanical research and conservation programs, we are alone.

We are, in short, a very special kind of museum with all that entails—having and maintaining collections, servicing the broad public as a core responsibility, keeping careful records of our collections, and ensuring our staff meets professional standards, all overseen by a committed and knowledgeable board of trustees.

The American Association of Museums, as you read on page one, recently awarded us reaccreditation. This is very high praise for any museum, but especially for a botanic garden. Only a dozen botanic gardens out of nearly 500 that exist in the United States have been so "certified" by meeting the high standards of the museum community.

In order to accomplish this, the museum must conduct an in-depth study of itself, which takes most institutions a year to do. Then, a "visiting committee" of professionals who are specifically knowledgeable about botanic gardens and museums spend several days on-site. They talk to staff and trustees, check records, poke into back corners and assess virtually every aspect of the institution to see that high standards are maintained. Finally, the visiting committee makes a recommendation to the staff and accreditation board of the American Association of Museums, who makes the final decision.

The entire process takes about three years!

We are gratified to have attained reaccreditation and to have other professionals give us their assessment of how we are doing. But this is only possible because of the enormous community support we receive from our members, donors and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Volunteers needed to help solicit support

Denver Botanic Gardens is looking for dedicated individuals who are familiar with fundraising and the local Denver community. If you are interested, please consider joining a volunteer committee that will help gain in-kind contributions and sponsorships of many DBG events. In particular, DBG hopes to recruit support for Blossoms of Light, the 1998 Plant and Book Sale, the BirdHaus Bash and more. For more information call Carol Mirenda, 370-8185.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Momentum is building! On June 23, DBG staff, trustees and donors officially broke ground on the Romantic Gardens complex. With help from some local schoolchildren who earlier painted the colorful construction fence panels, the first shovels of dirt were turned, beginning a year-long process of renovation at the southeast corner of the grounds. Several of Denver's television news stations covered this historic event.

Just as ground was broken in one garden, another was dedicated. The O'Fallon Perennial Walk, the first completed section of the Romantic Gardens complex, officially was dedicated June 26. A crowd of staff, trustees and donors gathered to celebrate the completion of this garden, now in its first blooming season.

Parking lot improvements continue this month. Be sure to use off-site parking for concerts and the Walkabout. Come fall, when the dust settles, you'll see a dramatically improved parking area.

Security Life sponsors Garden Concerts

This summer DBG is enjoying the support of Security Life of Denver Insurance Company as title sponsor of the Garden Concerts. Corporate sponsorship is an integral part of DBG's success in continuing the 16-year tradition of evening performances in the Gardens.

Security Life of Denver offers life insurance products and services primarily to small and medium-sized business owners and professionals. It specializes in estate and wealth transfer, retirement planning and executive benefits.

Security Life has been active in the Denver community for more than 70 years by contributing more than \$250,000 each year. An additional \$50,000 is contributed throughout the country through a matching gifts program. Employees volunteered more than 700 hours in 1996. DBG is grateful for the support of this company. Be sure to enjoy the concerts that Security Life made possible.

Roses displayed at summer show

Hundreds of rose blooms will be displayed at "Celebration!," a Denver Rose Society rose show at DBG Saturday, Aug. 30, from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to exhibit and view roses at the Denver Rose Society portion of the show. The judged portion of the show, the Rocky Mountain District Rose Show, is for American Rose Society members only. Entrance to the show is included with general admission to the Gardens. For more information call Susan Bishop, 690-7144.

Tickets selling fast to hip concerts and theater

Tickets are selling fast to the remaining concerts—reserve yours now, or you may miss out! The Keb' Mo' blues concert Aug. 28 already has sold out, and only a few spots are available to hear country star Rosanne Cash Aug. 21. But don't despair: tickets are still available for Ivan Lins singing Brazilian jazz favorites Sept. 4 and an acoustic evening with Rice, Rice, Hillman and Pederson Sept. 12.

Be sure to catch a delightful evening of theater. Julian Glover performs a swashbuckling new translation of *Beowulf* Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7 and 8. It is the legend of Beowulf's titanic struggle with the monstrous Grendel, who devoured men and pillaged the mead halls of old King Hrothgar.

Then, Aug. 14 and 15, well-known Irish actor Kevin Moore brings his one-person show, *Crocodiles in Cream* to DBG. The play depicts the life of Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland*, and it will linger long in your memory.

All performances begin at 7:15 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Parking is limited around the Gardens—plan on parking in DBG's satellite parking lot at the Glendale Target store, 4301 E. Virginia Ave. Free double decker shuttle buses will take you to and from the concerts.

To order tickets, call 777-3836 or visit the ticket box office at the front entrance to the Gardens Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fielder teaches photo workshop

Acclaimed Colorado nature photographer John Fielder will provide a weekend of photography instruction at DBG and Chatfield Arboretum Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21.

The program, "The Art of Seeing Fall," begins with a lecture on the "how-tos" of color landscape photography Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program continues Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning with an intensive hands-on workshop limited to 16 participants. Photos taken in Saturday's workshop will be developed overnight and critiqued on Sunday.

The workshop is intended for all types of photographers—beginners and professionals—and will cover techniques for different types of film, from 35mm to large format.

Fielder's curriculum is derived from his new book, *Photographing the Landscape: The Art of Seeing*, a landmark volume based on 20 years of photographing Colorado and the West. Copies will be available at the program. Fielder has been photographing the natural world since 1973 and has produced 26 books on nature photography.

Cost for the slide lecture only is \$35 for members and \$42 for nonmembers. Cost for both the lecture and workshop is \$224 for members and \$275 for nonmembers. The workshop is limited to 16 participants. To register, call 370-8020.

Employee of the month

Steve Younger, accounting supervisor, was voted by his co-workers as June's employee of the month. Steve is recognized for his behind-the-scenes work and commitment to the Gardens, particularly in helping others do their jobs better. People regularly stand outside his door waiting for answers on everything from the budget process and reports to the computer system. When there are problems with the computer system, he does not hesitate to help, even though he may have his own work deadlines he is trying to meet.

Congratulations, Steve!



*Denver Botanic Gardens' Committee of the Fête des Fleurs
requests the pleasure of your company at a dinner and dance*

on Friday, the fifth of September

Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven

at half past six o'clock

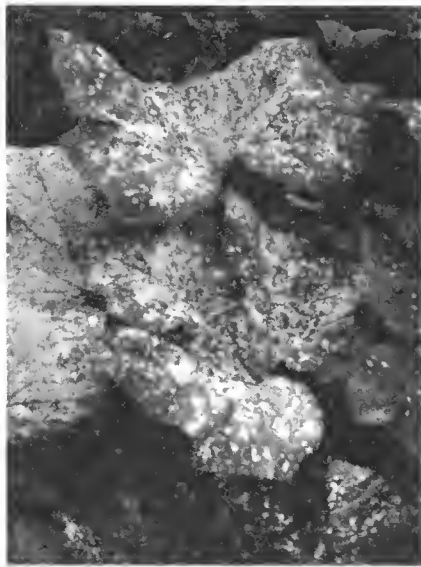
Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street

\$175 per person, \$250 per person Patron Level

*Proceeds will support educational programming, including horticultural therapy and community outreach
at Denver Botanic Gardens. For more information, please call, 303-370-8064.*

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.



Powdery mildew on squash.

Timely Tip

This is the best time of year to visit plantings of annual flowers at Denver Botanic Gardens as well as in local parks, public gardens and trial garden sites. The colorful plantings are at their peaks. Look for plant and color combinations you particularly like. Be sure to take a pencil and paper with you, and note your favorite varieties so you'll have a list to work from when seed catalogs begin to arrive or you're shopping for bedding plants next spring. DBG's water gardens are also particularly beautiful at this time.

Q. Would you give me some suggestions for treating powdery mildew on my flowers and vegetables?

A. Powdery mildew is a common fungal disease, especially at this time of the season. The powdery white patches that cover leaves, stems and buds consist of fungal spores. It surprises some gardeners that a fungus can proliferate so successfully during some of the hottest weeks of the year. Spore germination does not require that the plants be wet. A high relative humidity for several hours is all that is required, which frequently occurs when night temperatures drop. Although seldom fatal, infected plants often show reduced growth and an accompanying reduction in fruit and/or flower production. Some branches or parts of infected plants may die. Among plants frequently affected are rose, zinnia, monarda, lilac, grape, Virginia creeper, squash, cucumber and melon. Interestingly, different species of powdery mildew fungi are responsible for the problem on each kind of plant. There are several approaches to treatment. Selection of resistant cultivars is an excellent way to prevent the disease. This is particularly useful in flower and vegetable plantings. Increasing the air circulation around plants helps to lower the relative humidity and provides an important non-chemical method of control. That is not to say that fans must be placed in the garden. Some judicious pruning and removal of debris can improve air movement considerably. Powdery mildew is also easily controlled by most fungicides. Ask at your favorite nursery or garden center to see the fungicides currently labeled for use on the kind of plant you want to treat, and follow package directions carefully. It is not uncommon for late-season foliage to succumb to an outbreak of this somewhat unsightly condition, but treatment options should be weighed against the reality that in just a few weeks the gardening season will start coming to a close.

Q. One of my plants, an indoor coleus, is infested with whiteflies. Any suggestions for control?

A. As with many pest problems, prevention of greenhouse whitefly is much easier than its control. The greenhouse whitefly originates in tropical and subtropical climates, so it over-winters here only in homes and greenhouses. New plants being introduced into indoor collections should be carefully inspected for infestation (look particularly at the undersides of the older foliage). First, if possible, remove and dispose of the leaves or parts of the plant most infested. (In the case of coleus, you could probably prune off most of the stems and foliage, and the base of the plant would resprout anew.) Sprays of insecticidal soap are effective on the immature stages of the insect but repeated applications are usually necessary. Yellow sticky traps will help eliminate adult whiteflies. If uninfested shoots with several nodes are present, starting new coleus plants from cuttings may be a viable option. In the case of a severe infestation, the value of the plant versus the cost of its treatment and/or replacement should be considered. Also remember that it may be better to dispose of an individual plant than risk allowing the problem to spread to the rest of your collection.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call 370-8068.

Our new gardens: The waterway garden

Water is typically featured in romantic gardens as a quiet pool, fountain or subdued waterfall. The visual impact of water and the sound of rushing water are mood altering and especially welcome in our semi-arid climate.

The waterway garden in the Romantic Gardens complex is modeled loosely after the water canal and wall creations of Luis Barragon, a noted Mexican landscape architect.

DBG's garden will feature an entry court, off the south end of the Perennial Walk, with 8-foot stucco walls, a quartet of matching ornamental trees, a smattering of ceramic tiles and wrought iron panels flanking the entryways on the north and south.

The water canal will begin as a smooth sheeting waterfall at the east side of the entry court and flow to the west end of the new complex, nearly to Anna's Overlook. The 8-foot stucco walls will continue west from the entry court, flanking the water canal. The focal point of the water canal area, in addition to the canal, will be a series of specimen oval columnar trees along the south side that will compliment the simplicity of the walls by casting symmetrically shaped and spaced shadows across the walk, canal and north wall. This shadowing will be particularly prominent during fall, winter and spring when the sun is lower in the sky.

The plant palette is currently being finalized by the horticulture staff and the Plant Collections Committee. Look for this garden to be open to the public in spring of 1998.

Jim Henrich
Director of Horticulture



Jupiter's beard (*Centranthus ruber*) is a beautiful, drought-tolerant perennial in Colorado with no pest or disease problems. It is native to the rocky places along the coast in Albania, the Balearic Islands, Corsica, France, Greece, Spain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Portugal and Turkey. Besides the San Francisco Bay region in California, it has naturalized on the cliffs of Dover in England (turning the cliffs from white to red during its bloom time), Austria, Switzerland and other places in Europe.

In Europe the leaves are considered edible for salads and as cooked vegetables. The roots are used as a soup vegetable. In Britain it is considered much too bitter to be edible. In Thomas Jefferson's time it was considered a medicinal herb. A drug concocted from the root was believed to be helpful for hysteria and nervous disorders because of its sedative and antispasmodic properties. It is not commonly known as a medicinal herb today, and one current book suggests the drug is poisonous if taken in large doses or for an extended period of time.

It is considered by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council as a California wildland weed of secondary importance because it covers disturbed cliffs in urban areas. It has not naturalized in Colorado, and as for the Front Range, we have nothing to fear from this beautiful ornamental (the seedlings aren't hardy) except the conflicting information about its edible and medicinal properties. However, if it is seeding freely next to natural areas, it should be pulled out.

Sources for information about Jupiter's beard:

Armitage, A.M. *Herbaceous Perennial Plants*. Athens, Ga.: Varsity Press, 1989. SB 434 .A7 1988.

Bianchini, Francesco & Francesco Corbetta. *The Complete Book of Health Plants*. New York: Crescent Books, 1975. QK 99 .A1 B35 1985.

California Exotic Pest Plant Council Worst Weeds List. <http://www.tnc.org/science/src/weeds/worst.htm>

Flora Europaea. v. 4. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976. QK 281 T89 Ref.

Grieve, Mrs. M. *A Modern Herbal*. New York: Dover, 1971, c1931. QK 99 .A1 G7 1971.

McVicar, Jekka. *Herbs for the Home*. New York: Viking Studio Books, 1995. SB 351 .H5 M275 1995.

Proctor, Rob. *Perennials*. New York: Harper & Row, 1990. SB 434 .P7 1990.

Xeriscape Plant Guide. Denver: Denver Water, 1996. SB 439.8 .X47 1996.

Water gardening symposium comes to Denver

Ten years after hosting the International Water Lily Symposium, Denver will host another this August—on Aug. 12 the world's finest water gardeners will visit DBG for the 13th annual event. Since the founding of the Colorado Water Garden Society at DBG some 14 years ago, interest in water gardening has blossomed locally, nationally and internationally at an unprecedented rate.

This month the water gardens are at their peak. Varieties hybridized by Joseph Bory-Latour Marliac are among the best and comprise a large portion of our display. The large red *Nymphaea* 'Attraction', luminous white *N.* 'Virginalis' and dainty yellow *N. x pygmaea* 'Helvola' are examples of his work.

Look for the world's first peach colored water lily *N.* 'Colorado'—it is fast becoming popular. It has a worthy companion, the buff *N.* 'Denver'. *N.* 'Mary' is a local favorite, as is the bright yellow *N.* 'Joey Tomocik'. All were hybridized by Dr. Kirk Strawn.

N. 'Pink Sensation' and *N.* 'Perry's Fire Opal' are beautiful. One of the heaviest bloomers is *N.* 'Perry's Baby Red'. These selections come from Perry D. Slocum.

Don't miss the tropical water lilies, fragrant and rising high above the water surface. The Pring hybrids are classical, including the purple *N.* 'Judge Hitchcock' and *N.* 'Bagdad'. Watch for Martin E. Randig's exotic looking hybrids—*N.* 'Evelyn Randig' and *N.* 'Leopardess'. *N.* 'Aquarius' and the red night-blooming tropical *N.* 'Antares', hybridized by Patrick Nutt, also will open eyes. Thanks to the efforts of DBG volunteer Stan Skinger, DBG's tropical water lily collection continues to grow. Of course, DBG again will display the grandest of all, the Victoria water lily.

Small container water gardens are displayed throughout DBG. Look for the latest development, a "tea-cup" lotus that will grow in a container measuring a mere 7 inches in diameter.

DBG's trials have more than 20 selections from prominent hybridizers. The Banksian Medal, organized under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, will be awarded to the hybridizer of the prize-winning water lily at this summer's symposium, thanks to the efforts of Barbara Davies.

DBG enjoys enduring support from our volunteer groups, the Associates and the Colorado Water Garden Society. They have been working hard this summer to create one of the most impressive and memorable displays ever. Glimpses of Monet...see you at the pool side, water gardeners!



DBG's water gardens are in full bloom this month.

Joseph Tomocik
Aquatic Horticulturist

Summer interns train at DBG

Five college students arrived at the Gardens in mid-June for a summer of educational enrichment and hands-on training as interns in applied horticulture.

Mary Foley and Brent Lewis are training under Alice Mann Owen internships. Foley is studying horticulture with a concentration in business management at C.S.U. in Fort Collins. She has worked the past two summers at Elitch Gardens and has volunteered with the Interfaith Task Force youth garden program through Arapahoe County 4-H. Mary is interested in pursuing a career at a public garden. Lewis is working toward a horticulture degree with an emphasis in landscape design at Kansas State University. He has spent the past three summers designing, installing and maintaining the landscape for Bucky's Restaurant in Lawrence, Kan. He hopes to run his own business in the future.



DBG's summer interns (l. to r.): Jennifer Bass, David Dietrich, Kendra McGary, Brent Lewis and Mary Foley. (JeanAnn Vander Heyden not pictured.)

Jennifer Bass and Kendra McGary are studying at DBG through Beatrice B. Taplin internships. Bass is studying horticulture and landscape design at South Dakota State University, and her goal is to help people enjoy their natural surroundings through gardens and landscape. She is on the student-athlete advisory committee representing the women's track team for the university. McGary is a horticulture student at the University of Nebraska. She has been assisting with the propagation of 8,000 blowout penstemon plants, an endangered plant in Nebraska. She enjoys working with the public.

David Dietrich was awarded this year's Clara Van Schaak Phipps internship. Dietrich is studying urban horticulture at Front Range Community College and recently returned to school to pursue a career change. Dietrich is interested in diagnosing plant problems and correcting growing conditions.

JeanAnn Vander Heyden is the recipient of the Gardens' newest endowment, the Donald McIntosh internship. She is a student at Front Range Community College studying horticulture and is interested in pursuing a career in horticultural therapy.

DBG's internships are partially underwritten by gifts from Denver Botanic Gardens Guild, Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens and other organizations and individuals. College students work alongside DBG's professional staff. Field trips, projects and lectures round out the program.

Research department out in the field

The field season has started for DBG's research department, and several new projects are underway.

The rare plant research team continues to collect data on the life history of several rare plants. A vegetation sampling project along the Mount Goliath trail has begun. The goal of this project is to measure long-term trends in the richness of vascular plant species. Intern Brady Wilson, a field biology major from the University of Northern Colorado, and Jan Wingate, DBG's herbarium manager, are helping with the project. Paula Ellison, an environmental/biological sciences major at the University of Denver, also is working on rare plant projects. A new study is being designed for *Cirsium ownbeyi*, or Ownbey's thistle, a rare native thistle found along the Colorado-Utah state line and in Dinosaur National Monument.

Work continues in the prairie at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Under the direction of intern Amy Wilson, volunteers from DBG and the Arsenal are working to control invasive weeds. During Prairie Days, 800 native wildflowers were planted at the Arsenal. These plants were grown at the Gardens by Wilson and DBG's research assistant Mark Minton from seed collected at the Arsenal.

Vera Evenson, manager of DBG's Herbarium of Fungi, has been busy in response to her new book, *Mushrooms of Colorado and the Southern Rocky Mountains*. As president of the Colorado Mycological Society, Evenson also has been preparing for this month's national mycological convention in Copper Mountain Aug. 14 to 17.

Glass shines on at DBG

The Glass Artist's Fellowship of Denver's annual "Glass at the Gardens" stained glass show continues to sparkle this month through Aug. 10.

Most forms of glass art are represented at this regional show. A very successful category for blown glass, first introduced last year, returns to this year's line-up. Many of the art pieces have botanical themes, and most are for sale.

In addition to the larger works of art, an entire section is devoted to "small objects"—everything from sandblasted coffee mugs and vases to jewelry and ornaments. Prices begin at a few dollars.

The show is included with admission to the Gardens (free to members) and is in John C. Mitchell II Hall. It is open during regular Gardens hours, as well as during the Aug. 6 early morning senior member stroll and the evening theater performances Aug. 7 and 8. For more information call 370-8187.



DBG's research department interns Brady Wilson (left) and Paula Ellison.

Walkabout DBG with your family

Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. marks the final Family Walkabout of the season. Join in the entertaining events for the whole family including music, science, stories, theater, games and of course, rolling down the grassy hills.

The Denver Dumb Friends League will bring its Pet Careavan to the visitor parking lot to promote its off-site adoptions program. The Careavan will be filled with furry friends who are available for adoption—or just eager for a visit from passersby. Adoption staff will be on-hand to answer pet care or adoption questions.

Families are encouraged to use DBG's off-site parking lot at the Glendale Target, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and hop on the double-decker bus to and from the Walkabouts—adults will be happy to avoid parking congestion, and children will enjoy the whimsical ride.

Purchase tickets in advance by calling 777-3836, or pay at the front gate the evening of the Walkabout. Admission for member adults and children is \$4; nonmember cost is \$6. Children 2 and younger are admitted free. For more information call 370-8187.

Learn about plants' healing powers

"The Healing Power of Plants," an extensive exhibit on loan from the Museum at the University of Colorado, Boulder, will be in DBG's lobby court from September through November. The exhibit illustrates the relationship between plants and people, highlighting the dependence on plants for medicines.

The weekend of Sept. 13 to 15 will celebrate the opening of the exhibit. Guides will be on-hand to answer questions about the exhibit. Lectures, demonstrations and children's activities also have been planned throughout the weekend. Classes and workshops will continue throughout the fall. Watch for the fall education programs brochure for a complete schedule, or call the registration office, 370-8020.

From your membership office

A behind-the-scenes adventure!

Arbor Circle level members and above are invited to tour DBG's production greenhouse areas on Wednesday, Sept. 10. Tours will be offered at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. and will be led by DBG greenhouse staff members and volunteers. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Call 370-8018 to make your reservation.

Seniors can stroll free!

DBG senior members are invited to bring a guest and stroll the Gardens Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 7 to 9 a.m. Reservations are not required and admission is free. Free coffee and rolls will be available near the front entrance, while supplies last. For more information call 370-8021.

New member party in the Japanese Garden

New DBG members are invited to a party in the Japanese Garden Monday, Aug. 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A Japanese koto player will entertain in the tea house, and sushi will be served outside the garden. Reservations are required: call 370-8018.

Member dividend plants

Here is a partial list of species that DBG expects to have for members who visit the Gardens to claim them Sept. 6 and 7. Come early for the best selection; quantities are limited.

Indoor Plants

(Propagated from specimens removed from Boettcher Memorial Conservatory, which is under renovation.)

- Bloodleaf (*Iresine herbstii*)
- Brazilian prickly pear (*Opuntia braziliensis*)
- Firecracker flower (*Crossandra infundibuliformis*)
- Patchouli (*Pogostemon cablin*)
- Ruellia (*Ruellia devosiana*)
- Shrimp plant (*Justicia bradegeana* cvs.)
- Yellow-vein Pseuderanthemum (*Pseuderanthemum reticulatum*)
- Zebra um (*Billbergia zebrina*)

Outdoor Plants

- Carol Mackie daphne (*Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie')
- Hardy gazania (*Gazania linearis*)
- Peony hybrids (*Paeonia* cvs.)
- Red spurred valerian (*Centranthus ruber*)
- Shrub roses:
 - Rosa* 'Fritz Nobis'
 - Rosa* 'Fruhlinggold'
 - Rosa rugosa* 'Blanc Double de Coubert'
- Snowbank boltonia (*Boltonia asteroides* 'Snowbank')
- Spring bulb packages

Daylily sale this month

The Mile High Daylily Society will hold its annual daylily sale at DBG from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, and from 9 a.m. until sold out Sunday, Aug. 10. The sale will be held outside, weather permitting—look for directional signs as you enter the front gate.

All of the plants in the sale come from local gardens and are fully acclimated to growing conditions in Colorado Front Range gardens. The plants are freshly dug from members' gardens for the sale and will be sold bare root. Prices begin at just \$5. Experts will be on-hand to offer instructions on how to grow these popular plants.

The sale is included with general admission to the Gardens (free to members.) For more information call 331-4000.

Tributes

In memory of Mrs. Louis Bansbach Jr.

Katherine H. Stapleton

In memory of Mark Cilento

Hugo and Barbara Stoeber

A memorial bench in memory of Julian D. and Josephine T. Conover

Frederick "Jerry" Conover II

In memory of Betty N. Cramer

Anne and Marshall Diggs

In memory of Jim Greenfield

Richard and Donna Curtis

In memory of Mary Hougland

Sarah and James Massell

In memory of Elizabeth Malo

Tom and Bea Taplin

In memory of Joseph Lee Redmond

Libby Barstow

In memory of George Reger

Joseph and Patricia Turowski

In memory of Len Robbins

Gail Kessel

Jeffrey Crawford

Dan Remus

In memory of Jean Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fitzpatrick

In memory of Olga Dietz Turner

Mrs. Robert Waterman

In memory of Hugh Wingate

Richard and Lucy Daley

Max and Beverly Capron

In honor of Betty Stoffel's Birthday

Ruth Strear Kobey

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

August

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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Address correction requested

Last Chance! Don't miss the final two Sunset Garden Strolls of the summer Aug. 20 and 27. You can stroll the Gardens, now in full bloom, while encountering several musical groups along the way. Purchase a dinner from DBG's summer caterer, or bring your own picnic dinner. Cost for members is \$3 for adults, \$1 for youth and seniors. Nonmember cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth and seniors. For more information call 370-8187.

August

- | | | | |
|--------|--|------------|---|
| 1 | Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum | 16 | <i>Bird Walk for Beginners</i> |
| 2 | <i>Simple Soaps</i> | | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i> |
| | <i>Mount Goliath Wildflower Tour</i> | 16, 17 | Koi Club Show |
| | Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Society meeting | 17 | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i> |
| 4 | Free Day at York Street | | Rocky Mountain Branch of American Begonia Society meeting |
| 5 | Sunrise Fitness Walk | | Colorado Water Garden Society meeting |
| | * <i>Perennials for Connoisseurs</i> | 18 | Colorado Mycological Society meeting |
| | * <i>Beyond Xeriscape</i> | 19 | Sunrise Fitness Walk |
| | <i>Mount Goliath Wildflower Tour</i> | 20 | Sunset Garden Stroll |
| 6 | Senior Early Morning Stroll—for members only! | | Herb Society of America meeting |
| 7 | <i>Mount Goliath Wildflower Tour</i> | 21 | Garden Concert: Rosanne Cash |
| 7, 8 | Garden Theater: Julian Glover | 23 | <i>Aquatic Plant Walk</i> |
| 9 | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i> | | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i> |
| | Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting | 24 | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i> |
| 9, 10 | Mile High Daylily Society Sale | 25 | New Member Party in the Japanese Garden—for members only! |
| 10 | <i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i> | 26 | Sunrise Fitness Walk |
| 12 | International Water Lily Symposium | | <i>Scripture Garden Walk</i> |
| | Sunrise Fitness Walk | 27 | Sunset Garden Stroll |
| | <i>As the Worm Turns</i> | 28 | Garden Concert: Keb' Mo' |
| 13 | Family Walkabout | | African Violet Society meeting |
| | <i>Summer Flower Arranging</i> | 30 | Denver Rose Society Show |
| 14, 15 | Garden Theater: Kevin Moore | 30 - 11/16 | Healing Power of Plants Display |

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

September 1997



HT certificate program begins next month

Beginning in October, DBG's Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies will become a reality. Many years in the making, the center will offer courses for working professionals interested in the field of horticultural therapy.

In just two years, students can complete a certificate program that requires only three visits to the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center per year. For avid gardeners and horticulturists, the center will offer in-depth training to apply your passion for gardening in human service. For those already working in health care or human service, instructors will help you learn how to effectively use gardening as a tool to improve lives. The Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies faculty is composed of experienced horticultural therapists from across the country—"in the trenches" professionals dedicated to quality educational programming. The staff will provide the tools and techniques essential for connecting people and gardening in a purposeful way.

Academic credit and continuing education units (CEUs) are available for each of the courses through Colorado State University as well as points through the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA).

Now is the time to begin this exciting program. Registration is being accepted for the first course, Introduction to Horticultural Therapy, Oct. 9 to 12. A prerequisite for all other courses in the certificate program, this class will be offered only once more in February, 1998 before other certificate classes begin in March, 1998. Call 370-8020 to register.

Exciting possibilities await not only the certificate students—many volunteer opportunities will be available as classes progress. For information about the Center for Horticultural Studies, call 370-8098.

Learn about Walt Disney World's gardens

Katy Moss Warner, director of Walt Disney World's horticulture and environmental initiatives in Orlando, Fla., will provide a glimpse into the wonderful world of Disney's gardens in "Fun and Fantasy in the Gardens of Walt Disney World" Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The lecture is the fourth in a series of talks at DBG that make up the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series.

Moss Warner's program will show the gardening traditions at Walt Disney World Resort and the design elements that add fun and fantastical surprises to make the gardens so inviting to visitors from around the world.

Moss Warner has more than 20 years of experience with Disney and directs a staff of nearly 600 horticulturists. She is responsible for the horticulture activities of Orlando's three theme parks and the resort areas, including the new "Animal Kingdom." She has a particular interest in the "magical" elements in a landscape, such as topiary, hanging baskets and bedding plants. She also is actively developing and implementing environmentally-responsible programs for the gardens of Walt Disney World.

Started in 1987, the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series is named in honor of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, whose generous support makes it possible to bring renowned speakers to the Gardens.

Lectures begin promptly and are held in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Helen Fowler Library will be open from 6 to 7 p.m. the evening of the lecture. Cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. Call the registration office, 370-8020, to reserve your seat.

Don't miss the Fall Gardening Fair

Plan to attend the Fall Gardening Fair Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and learn gardening secrets from experts. The gardening programs are co-sponsored by Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association and Garden Centers of Colorado. As a member, you can pick up your annual membership plant dividend (grown in DBG's own greenhouses) either day. The fair is included with admission to the Gardens (free to members). For more information, call 370-8187.



Katy Moss Warner

Green Thumb News September 1997

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horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for November issue: Sept. 19

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	331-4009
<i>9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

Giant strides for horticultural therapy

Ever since the Pauline A. and George R. Morrison Trust made the gift to create the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center nearly 15 years ago, Denver Botanic Gardens has been a national leader in the field of horticultural therapy. "HT," as it is often called, is the use of plants in all kinds of therapies for people with special needs, whether physical or mental.

This fall, in an innovative program designed by Rebecca Haller, the head of our horticultural therapy program and immediate past president of the American Horticultural Therapy Association, and in cooperation with Colorado State University, we have created an expanded program that leads to a certificate upon completion of the two-year program. This program, known as "DBG's Center for Horticultural Therapy Studies," is aimed toward a national audience. During the two years needed to complete the program, students spend only a few weeks here and most of the time in their hometowns, where they must complete both practical work as well as more academic assignments. Please turn to the front page of this issue to learn more of the details.

Horticultural Therapy is a major part of our overall education programs extending our reach to a very important audience. We focus on training therapists—activity, vocational, recreational and others—which allows us to truly touch the lives of many people that we otherwise could not reach. It is yet another way we find to use plants to enrich people's lives, no matter their other abilities.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Congress Park house tour planned

A Congress Park House Tour is planned for Saturday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour attendees can take a peek inside five classic residences in this unique community just east of Denver Botanic Gardens. At least two houses included on this year's tour have Historical Landmark status. The tour benefits Teller Elementary School. For information on purchasing tickets, call Linda Andrews, 329-9291.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Anyone who has visited the Gardens lately has seen the progress being made on the streets and in the parking lot. Construction crews have been working hard straightening York Street and doubling the size of the lot. Construction is scheduled to wrap up later this month, and then the new lot will be landscaped with trees this fall and ground cover next spring.

DBG's Board president honored by Food Bank

Food Bank of the Rockies will honor DBG's Board of Trustees president John Proffitt and his wife, Sharon, at its sixth annual Heart of Gold Ball Oct. 16—World Food Day.

"Year after year the Proffitts quietly give to the community," said Rick Rank, president and CEO of Food Bank of the Rockies. "The Heart of Gold Award is an excellent opportunity for us to thank John and Sharon for their dedicated efforts to making a difference in the city of Denver and the state of Colorado."

Working together to help their community, the Proffitts have served as chairs for Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center, Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Share Our Strength events for several years.

Proceeds from the Heart of Gold Ball will fund Denver's Table, a program that addresses the problem of surplus food and reroutes more than 300,000 nutritious meals to those in need in Denver.

Sensory tours given at Morrison Center

The Sensory Garden at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center is a refuge for youngsters who wish to experience the pleasures of plants. Trained guides conduct preschool and kindergarten tours through the Sensory Garden June through September. Designed to give a manageable glimpse of how wonderful a garden can be, the tour can be a great alternative to attempting to see all of the main garden area, especially if your group is a younger one. To schedule a tour, call 370-8020.

Marketing efforts stepped up at Gardens

DBG and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) are beautifying the city—two blue buses with van Gogh's famous art work "Irises" painted on the sides are cruising the streets. The message painted on the buses, "This is van Gogh's version—come see Mother Nature's," complete with DBG's name and logo, increases the public's awareness of the Gardens while making the buses enticing to look at.

DBG also has joined forces with the other SCFD Tier 1 cultural institutions, the Denver Zoo, the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Denver Art Museum, in a joint advertising campaign. Advertisements have been printed in tourist publications, *The Denver Post* and on RTD bus cards—the advertisement panels on the sides of buses. Television commercials also are running on TCI. The message of the campaign, "Got to do it, want to do it," shows pictures of mundane tasks that we all have to do, such as mowing the lawn and folding laundry, side-by-side with beautiful pictures of each cultural facility. The ads encourage people to take time from their busy schedules and participate in activities they want to do. The advertising campaign is the first ever cooperative campaign among the four Tier 1 institutions.

Finally, DBG is about to embark on an exciting journey into cyberspace! Work has begun to develop a web site for the Gardens. Several web sites already publicize our gardens or activities, including the SCFD's Arts to Zoo site (<http://www.artstozoo.org>) and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (<http://aabga.mobot.org/aabga>). Hopefully by early 1998, we'll have our own "page" that will promote the Gardens all around the world.



Watch the streets for DBG's painted RTD bus.

It's almost time go pumpkin picking

Believe it or not, the ninth annual Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum is just around the corner—the date has been set for Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As in previous years, the four-acre pumpkin patch will be glowing with orange fruits just for the pickin'. Families interested in old-fashioned fun can take a free hayrack ride—and take home an inexpensive memorable "family portrait" snapshot. Free children's activities and information from local educational agencies will keep kids of all ages occupied.

A variety of food vendors will satisfy taste buds, and numerous craft booths will inspire early holiday shoppers. Last year's expanded parking system created a relaxed and well-designed festival lay-out. With KOOL Radio's catchy tunes and an atmosphere such as the Arboretum's, you won't want to miss the fun! For more information call 973-3705.

Employee of the month

Rich Bieling, DBG's operations manager, was recognized by his co-workers as July's employee of the month. Rich always finds positive aspects in all the tasks he performs and people he encounters throughout his extremely busy schedule. When talking about his staff he emphasizes gratitude for their efforts, and he always can be seen with his sleeves rolled up, working right beside them. His enthusiasm, leadership, teamwork and desire to cooperate have greatly improved the Gardens. Congratulations, Rich!

Science Literacy program developing at DBG

Recently, a local newspaper printed an article on middle school and college student responses to science test questions. Answers ranged from: "Mushrooms always grow in damp places so they look like umbrellas" and "The pistol of the flower is its only protection against insects" to "H₂O is hot water, and CO₂ is cold water." Although extremely humorous on first reading, one wonders if this is representative of our youth's understanding of and involvement in the sciences.

In response to this question, DBG is launching a new initiative through its youth education program focusing on "Science Literacy." Science programming in the botanical, horticultural and related sciences will be developed and facilitated for youth in grades K-12 through both formal school-based programming and informal opportunities. Programming will utilize DBG's collections, natural resources and professional resources, and link formal studies to State Educational Standards.

DBG also hopes to increase its contact with middle school and high school youth, providing challenging standards-based curricula and self-guided learning tours of the Gardens at the beginning, intermediate, advanced and expert levels. Also DBG will develop opportunities for teens to work at the Gardens through community service programs, summer employment and a Summer Science Institute.

'Healing Plants' exhibit on display

"The Healing Power of Plants," an educational exhibit that will be on display in DBG's lobby court from Sept. 13 through Nov. 23, highlights medicinal uses of plants, particularly those found locally. This national exhibit is on loan from the University of Colorado Museum in Boulder and was developed with the help of many local plant authorities.

In conjunction with the exhibit, DBG will be offering unique programs featuring speakers from traditional and alternative medicine fields. A weekend of special programming Saturday, Sept. 13, to Monday, Sept. 15, will kick off the opening of the exhibit. On Saturday, Brigitte Mars will discuss herbal renaissance; Rob McCaleb will talk about herbs for natural health care; and TroyLynn Yellow Wood and Robert (Owns White Face Horse) Cross will cover healing and spiritual awareness.

On Sunday, author Steven Foster will discuss herbal medicines in the modern world; Logan Chamberlain will explain integrating medicinal herbs into conventional western medicine; and Trish Flaster will tell where medicines originate and their ecological implications. Cost for Saturday's and Sunday's programs are \$40 per day for members and \$50 per day for nonmembers. Fees include all handouts and lunch.

On Monday, Sept. 15, a free day at the Gardens, several programs will be offered free of charge. Visitors can take a tour of DBG's Traditional Plants of Our Southwestern Native Peoples Garden and be introduced to modern and ancient native crops and the techniques used to grow them in the arid Southwest. The tour will be led by Susan Johnson from the Arikara-Hidatsa tribe. She is a biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and has extensive gardening experience. Other free activities include a Medieval herbal talk and healthful herbal delicacy sampling. Information about and samples of healing teas—from traditional to medicinal—also will be available.

Additional programs will be offered throughout the fall, including "Mayan Medicine in the Modern World" by Dr. John Brett, Ph.D.; "Medicinal Miracles of the Future" by James S. Miller from Missouri Botanical Garden; a panel discussion of traditional and alternative medicinal practitioners from many cultures; and this year's Tempel Wildflower Lecture, "From Taxol to Kombusha: Mushrooms in Medicine, Facts and Folklore," by Vera Evenson, DBG's associate curator of the herbarium of fungi.

Other smaller classes and workshops that will allow you to pursue an area of interest in greater depth also will be offered this fall. You'll learn about making your own medicinal tinctures and salves; using traditional and herbal teas; herbal pet care; planning and planting your own medicinal garden; and medicinal plants of Shakespearean time. For detailed information on "Healing Plants" programs call the registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019.

New plant accepted in National Collection

Penstemon harringtonii is the newest plant accepted by the Center for Plant Conservation for the National Collection. This plant was discovered in June 1952 by C.W.T. Penland in sagebrush about three miles northwest of Green Mountain Dam in Grand County, Colo. The geographic range for this species is Eagle, Grand, extreme southern Routt and extreme northern Summit counties.

Harrington's penstemon is a perennial plant that is generally recognized only when it is flowering. The diagnostic feature in field identification is the two exerted stamens from the end of the floral tube. In 1996, DBG and the Bureau of Land Management designed a long-term monitoring study for this species. The study is focused on detecting a 20 percent difference in the mean density of this species through the study period. Hopefully the reasons for the fluctuating population numbers will be determined. Botanical inventory also will be included in the study. The goal is to provide the necessary data to help design adequate management plans for this species.

Research interns wrap up summer

Pictured in last month's *Green Thumb News*, DBG's research interns are wrapping up their summer. Paula Ellison is currently a student at the University of Denver. She is majoring in environmental science and biology. She will graduate in June 1998 and plans to pursue a graduate career in plant ecology. Ellison may use some of the data that she collected this summer as the basis for a senior honors thesis. Brady Wilson is currently a student at the University of Northern Colorado. He is a field biology major and plans to graduate this December. Wilson participated in a research project concerning bald eagles wintering along the South Platte River.

African Violet Club holds program

The Ultra Violet African Violet Club will sponsor a program, "African Violets are Easy," at DBG's Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center Monday, Sept. 22, at 9:30 a.m. It will highlight the basics of growing African violets.

A potluck luncheon and club meeting will follow the program. People who join the club will receive a free African violet plant. For more information call 429-2730 or 697-5905.

Garden Concerts wrap up a successful season

Hurry now to enjoy the last concerts of the summer season. Thursday, Sept. 4, Ivan Lins will perform Brazilian jazz. Lins is a romantic and sophisticated singer, pianist and composer of sambas, bossa novas, choro and galope. Friday, Sept. 12, the acoustic group Rice, Rice, Hillman & Pederson will wrap up the concert season. These musicians have known and admired each other for years, and they even played together once as teenagers in 1963 at the Pasadena Ice House. New Grass masters Tony Rice and Larry Rice played with the Tony Rice Unit, The Rice Brothers and other groups. Folk-rock hero Chris Hillman performed with The Byrds, The Desert Rose Band and more. Musician's musician Herb Pederson is a preeminent session player and played banjo on "The Rockford Files."

Tickets to each concert are \$16 for members, \$19 for nonmembers. Concerts begin at 7:15 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Since parking is limited around the Gardens, plan on leaving your car in DBG's satellite parking lot at the Glendale Target store, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and taking a free double decker shuttle bus to and from the concert. Buses begin running at 4:30 p.m.

Garden Concerts are presented by Security Life of Denver, sponsored by *The Denver Post* and produced by Jim Sprinkle Productions. United Airlines also is a generous supporter of the series. To order tickets, call 777-3836, or visit the ticket box office at DBG's front entrance Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bonsai trees on display

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will hold its annual show at DBG Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 and 5.

Expert bonsai trainers will be on-hand providing demonstrations and featuring bonsai trees in their fall color. Bonsai plants and supplies will be for sale. The show is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Activities are in John C. Mitchell II Hall and are included with admission to the Gardens (free to members). For more information call 331-4000.

Botanical illustrations needed for show

Denver Botanic Gardens is calling for entries for its second annual botanical illustration show Feb. 7 to 22, 1998. The show will offer botanical artists a rare opportunity to have their work juried and to explain the field of botanical illustration to the public. Last year, more than 200 entries from all over the nation were received.

The show is open to amateur and professional botanical artists. Submitted work must be an illustration of botanical materials. It must exhibit scientific accuracy, be anatomically correct and true to scale. The entry must be recent, original art. No impressionistic paintings, landscapes or extraneous elements, such as vases and still life, will be considered.

Entries must be submitted in slide form by Nov. 21. Each artist may submit up to three entries. An entry fee of \$5 per slide will help DBG defray the costs of the contest and show. Works accepted into the show must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Gardens by Feb. 2, 1998. They must be matted, framed and covered with glass. Framed size cannot exceed 30 inches by 40 inches.

For an entry form or more information on the contest or show, call 370-8021. For information on enrolling in DBG's School of Botanical Illustration, with classes beginning this fall, check your fall class catalog or call 370-8020.

US West sponsors free week-end

US West, as part of its campaign, "life is better here," is sponsoring free admission to all four Tier One cultural institutions, including Denver Botanic Gardens, on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27. Free admission will also be offered at the Denver Zoo, Denver Museum of Natural History and the Denver Art Museum. US West will be offering a free trial of their new service and including membership to any of the four museums with a purchase of their product. Watch for the US West advertising campaign for more details.

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. Would you suggest some medium- to large-sized trees I could plant for colorful fall foliage?

A. The first trees most of us envision when fall color is mentioned are the maples and oaks of this country's Eastern deciduous forests. Regrettably, many of those species do not thrive in Colorado's alkaline, clay soils. Still, there are good specimens of two of the most vivid: red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) in scattered locations throughout the Denver metropolitan area and other Front Range communities. They often seem to do better at sites with somewhat sandy soils in established neighborhoods where the earth has been cultivated for a few decades. Bigtooth maple (*Acer grandidentatum*), native to canyons of the American West and Southwest, may be better adapted to our climate. It is considered by many taxonomists to be a geographic subspecies of sugar maple. The hardier cultivars of red maple (*Acer rubrum*) are being increasingly planted in this area, too. Frequently they seem to establish well, but occasionally young trees languish and eventually succumb to iron/zinc chlorosis. Autumn purple ash (*Fraxinus americana* 'Autumn Purple') offers a colorful, if not vivid, alternative hue in the fall landscape. Bright yellow foliage is provided locally by hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and various green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) cultivars. When selecting a shade tree, strive to choose a species unique to your neighborhood to ensure diversification of our urban forest. Try an unusual species or cultivar; atypical trees thrive in locations throughout the city because horticultural pioneers dared to plant them. Finally, this is an excellent time of the year to purchase and plant a shade tree. You have the opportunity to select a particular tree for its fall foliage color (individuals among a species may vary), and many nurseries are offering large discounts on their remaining stock.

Q. I was told not to remove the bare flower stem from my phalaenopsis orchid because it would bloom again. Is this true?

A. That is not a simple question to answer. Some phalaenopsis orchids will rebloom from the old flower stalk, although it may take from a few months to nearly a year to occur. If you know the species you are growing (or its parentage if a hybrid) you may be able to determine whether another flowering is likely. Generally, types with smaller blossoms that are produced one or two at a time are more likely to continue to flower along the same stem. Hybrids that produce sprays of large flowers may subsequently produce a branch below the previous inflorescence that opens at a later date, but those flowers are seldom in the number and quality of the first blooming. Also, some growers believe that reflowered plants delay production of their next flower stalk. I'd say the choice is up to you.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call 370-8068.

Vegetable gardening toward autumn

It is a busy time of year in the vegetable patch. Harvest is still at peak, yet observant gardeners have noticed the natural decline of plant growth that signals the approaching end of the season.

Tomato growers will soon be vigilant to the weather forecaster's prediction for each night's low temperature, anticipating the season's first frost. Although conditions vary from year to year, Colorado's growing season often seems to end rudely. What precautions can be taken when a frost warning is issued?

The amount of damage depends on the severity of the frost. Frost settles in low spots and causes its first and most severe damage in such areas. In light frosts, vegetables planted on slopes sometimes sneak through—even some quite tender varieties.

Tender species doomed by the first heavy frost of the season include summer squash, melon, pepper, tomato, eggplant and cucumber. When a heavy frost is probable, harvest all ripe and unripe fruit remaining on such plants. It is useless to attempt to protect them against any but the lightest frosts. Once tender vegetable plants get too cold, they blacken and the fruit will never develop a satisfactory flavor. Store harvested immature produce in an airy, warm room to ripen.

Lettuce varieties usually will survive some light frosts. Protection can be offered on chilly evenings by draping them with old sheets, newspaper tents or metallic blankets designed for frost protection.

Some vegetables actually are improved by frost. Cauliflower, broccoli, parsnip, kale, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkin can go through several frosts unharmed.

As plants succumb to the change of season, pull them up and add them to the compost pile. Exceptions are corn stalks (the winter refuge for the corn borer) and any diseased plants. Be sure to make notes on your successes, failures and plans for improvement so you'll be prepared to design next year's garden when seed catalogs begin arriving in just a few months.



Melons, such as this watermelon, are among the first to succumb to frost damage.



Bigtooth maple

The first bigtooth maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) that I really appreciated was on the way to the top of the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park, Texas. It was along the trail next to a stream that was little more than a seep. It was a beautiful tree; tall, with beautifully designed, deeply cut, dark green leaves. It turns out that particular specimen is the state champion tree for that species.

Take a trip to the Wasatch Mountains in Utah in the fall, and you will see the tree's other great attribute. Its fall leaves can be yellow, orange or scarlet, coloring entire areas of the mountains. Utah has the largest bigtooth maple habitat, but the maple can be found in northwestern Montana, extreme southeastern Idaho, southwestern Wyoming, through Utah and Arizona to west Texas and northern Mexico.

In Colorado, the maple is rare, only found in north-facing canyons in Mesa Verde National Park. Looking at its distribution throughout the west perhaps will tell us why. The eastern slope of Colorado is a little drier and more variable in terms of temperature swings than most of the maple's range. Because of its wonderful fall color and beautiful leaf shape, it has long been considered a potential ornamental tree, but it has not been a huge success here because of hardiness problems. On your next visit to DBG be sure to check out the beautiful specimen at the east edge of the oak grove.

Chris Hartung, a former DBG employee, went seed collecting in 1991 in southeastern Idaho, the most northern extreme of the maple's habitat. He collected seed from 15 of the most beautiful specimens for fall color. The seeds were germinated and the seedlings were disseminated to 60 cooperating organizations and nursery people from North Dakota to New Mexico for selection of good color and other characteristics. Perhaps from this collection, there will be a new, wonderful ornamental tree for our urban gardens someday.

Susan Eubank
Senior Librarian

For additional information on bigtooth maple:

Gelderen, D.M. van, P.C. de Jong & H.J. Oterdoom. *Maples of the World*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1994. QK 495 .A17 G44 1994.

Peattie, Donald Culross. *A Natural History of Western Trees*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1953. QK 481 P3.

Powell, A. Michael. *Trees & Shrubs of Trans-Pecos Texas*. Big Bend National Park, TX: Big Bend Natural History Association, 1988. QK 188 .P6 1988.

Weber, William A. and Ronald C. Wittmann. *Colorado Flora: Western Slope*. Rev. ed. Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado, 1996. QK 150 .W4Co 1996.

Welsh, Stanley L., [et al.], editors. *A Utah Flora*. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1987. QK 189 U8 1987.

Our new gardens: The courtyard garden

The courtyard garden will be the focal point of the east side of the Romantic Gardens. This spectacular garden, to be called the Schlessman Plaza, was made possible by generous gifts from the Schlessman Family Foundation and the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. At its center, this courtyard will have a diamond-shaped plaza composed of alternating green and buff colored stone. Flanking the plaza to the west will be two matching pavilions. These octagonal pavilions will have green tiled roofs, stucco finish and brick accent around the base and windows, reminiscent of the Botanic Gardens House at 909 York St. Our thanks go to Dick Kirk and Fred and Jane Hamilton for making the pavilions possible.

From the courtyard plaza, you will look west through the fragrance garden, over the lawn, water lily pool and through a lattice panel wall that focuses attention on the waterway. The south end of this garden has a small alcove which will contain a feature element, yet to be determined, that will act as a focal point from the O'Fallon Perennial Walk.

The remainder of the Schlessman Plaza, east of the diamond-shaped plaza, will feature containers with both seasonal plantings and small trees. This area will be the foyer for the proposed temperate greenhouse which will be added in the future. Perennial, shrub and tree plantings will surround this area on the south, east and north.

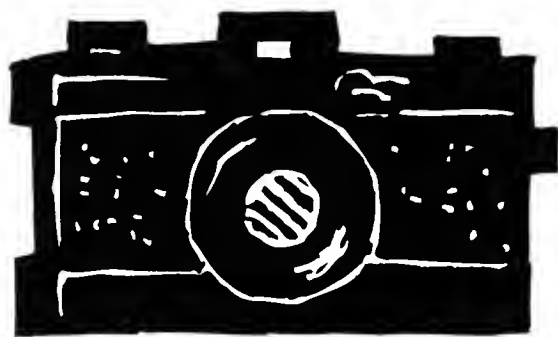
Jim Henrich
Director of Horticulture

Plan a garden that grows forever

If you want Denver Botanic Gardens to stay in full bloom long after you're gone, consider including the Gardens in your estate plans. Making a planned gift can be easy and often results in tax-saving benefits for your heirs. Planned gifts, such as bequests and charitable remainder trusts, are an excellent way to show your favorite charity how much you care — and you can provide for your family at the same time.

Are you looking for ways to reduce your tax burden? Make a gift of appreciated securities. By donating stock that has been held for more than one year and risen in value, you can avoid capital gains taxes and make a positive impact on the Gardens. Your gift furthers our efforts in promoting horticultural, educational and cultural activities for the local community and beyond.

Planned gifts are an effective way to ensure that future generations can enjoy the splendor of the Gardens and the full breadth of the services it now provides. For information, call Jennifer Darling, director of membership and development, 370-8027, or talk with your financial advisor about including the Gardens in your estate plans.



Free Waxman's photo class at DBG

Photographers interested in improving their skills should take advantage of a free class by a pro from Robert Waxman University Sunday, Sept. 28, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The instructor will provide participants with some tips to improve their close-up photography skills. After the class participants who bring their cameras can practice in DBG's gardens from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The class is in John C. Mitchell II Hall. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required and seating is limited. Call 370-8018 to reserve your spot.

Entries needed for '98 poster contest

Denver Botanic Gardens is soliciting entries for its 1998 Plant and Book Sale poster art contest. Deadline is Jan. 6, 1998.

The winning artist will receive \$1,000 and 200 copies of the limited edition poster. The winning work will be auctioned for the benefit of the Gardens during the sale May 8 to 10. The contest is open to all Colorado residents.

Entries must be one of the following media: oil, acrylic, egg tempera, watercolor or pastel. They should have a botanical or horticultural subject and must be 30 inches by 30 inches or smaller.

Entries must be submitted in slide form. An entry will consist of one color slide of the work and a completed application form. Each artist may submit up to three entries. An entry fee of \$5 per slide will help defray costs associated with the contest.

Complete rules, information and entry forms are available in DBG's lobby court, or call 370-8091.

1998 Plant Select® winners announced

Members of the Green Industry and the public have reacted enthusiastically to the first year's selections of Plant Select®. In fact, many nurseries have run low on several of the selections, and plants have been brought in from various parts of the country to fill the demand. The only problem with starting a program with plants of sterling character is what to do for an encore?

After viewing and eliminating scores of potential Plant Select® choices, six outstanding plants are being propagated in large numbers by wholesale nurseries in the region to provide fresh color and interest in the garden. These represent plants with stunning ornamental qualities, that are durable in our heat and drought and are either brand new to horticulture or rarely encountered. Watch for descriptions of these 1998 Plant Select® plants in upcoming issues of *Green Thumb News*: Weeping butterfly bush (*Buddleia alternifolia*), 'Starburst' ice plant (*Delosperma floribundum* 'Starburst'), 'Colorado Gold' hardy gazania (*Gazania linearis* 'Colorado Gold'), 'Purple Mountain' sun daisy (*Osteospermum barberiae* v. *compactum* 'Purple Mountain'), 'Lavender Mist' sun daisy (*Osteospermum* 'Lavender Mist'), and sparkling bubbles ruby grass (*Rhynchelytrum nerviglume*).

Panayoti Kelaidis
DBG Plant Evaluation Coordinator

The goblins are coming

DBG once again will become a haunted habitat for Halloween monsters—young and old—on Sunday, Oct. 26. Members and their guests are invited to explore the haunted jungle trail and enjoy fang-tastic food, creepy crafts for kids, eerie entertainment and much more from 1 to 3 p.m. and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Look for your “Goblins in the Gardens” invitation in the mail. Reservations are required and very limited; tickets are \$5. Children 2 and younger are free. Members can reserve their spooky afternoon by calling 370-8187 after Oct. 1 or by mail addressed to Goblins, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Your creativity is needed to make ghostly decorations weekly on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon; to help assemble the haunted trail Oct. 24 and 25; and to help the little goblins creep and crawl during this tantalizing event Oct. 26! If you are interested, please call the volunteer office at 370-8049.

Tributes

In memory of Dorothy Ann Fullerton

Knobby and Mack Brown
Wallin Foster
Syd Glick

Susan Glick Martin
Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton

In memory of Phil Hayword

Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

In memory of Martha Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin

In memory of Mrs. Mary Hart Smith

Bill and Nancy Ashby
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Caldwell
Betty and Ray Cordsen
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Cushman
Jim and Olive Edmund
Edwin A. Bemis Public Library Staff
Kathy Greene
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Ms. Judith Jones
Mrs. Patricia Jones
Nancy Lawson

Wesley and Heather Le Masurier
Littleton City Council and Staff
Mary and Charles Purdy
Alice Dodge Wallace
Mr & Mrs. Ludwig C. Wood

In memory of Hugh Wingate

Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

In honor of Marty Davis

Lisa and Lynn Taussig

In honor of Sue Cannon

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin

From your membership office

Breakfast and early morning tour

Rise and shine on Sunday, Sept. 21! Members at the Botanist Club level and above are invited to enjoy a continental breakfast at the Botanic Gardens House terrace. Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m., and tours of the gardens will follow at 8:30. Reservations are limited and required. Please call 370-8018.

Bountiful harvest of children's songs and stories

DBG members and their guests are invited to John C. Mitchell II Hall on Sunday, Aug. 21, at 1 p.m., to enjoy the popular “musical storyteller” Eric West. Both children and parents will enjoy West’s interactive musical stories. Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$2. Children 2 and younger are free. Reservations are required. For more information please call 370-8018.

Fall Fair member plant dividend

Don’t forget to come to the Fall Gardening Fair Sept. 6 or 7. After you’ve learned all there is to know from the gardening experts, you can pick up your annual member dividend—a free indoor or outdoor plant grown in DBG’s greenhouses! Just show your membership card and pick out your plant (one per membership) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Discounts for members

Here’s an opportunity to keep the scent, taste and feel of herbs in your life. Interweave Press Inc. is extending an offer it first made at the Herb Fair in June. As a member, you can order *The Herb Companion* and *Herbs for Health* magazines at a special rate. Call 1-800-645-3675, Dept. S-CF3, to subscribe or renew for 12 months at \$36—a 25 percent savings (alternating between the two magazines each month). Or, get six issues of either magazine for \$21, a 13 percent savings.

The Logan Street Gardens, 1925 S. Logan St. in Denver, is offering all DBG members a 10 percent discount. Botanist Club level and above members receive a 15 percent discount. Doing business in the historic Logan Street greenhouses, the company prides itself on friendly service dedicated to helping make gardening fun! Be sure to visit them soon and get acquainted.

Come enjoy the evening breezes

One of your best membership benefits is being able to come to the Gardens in the cool of the evenings just by showing your membership card. Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings through September DBG is open until 8 p.m. Bring a picnic supper and walk through the quiet beauty of the flowers with your friends and family.

New supporters: upper level members

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks those who began or renewed their memberships during the second quarter of 1997 at supporting levels.

Perennial Partners

Mr. Daniel J. Meyer & Ms. Sandra Marie McCann
Mr. Stephen R. Narans

Conservator's Society

Ms. Kali Barranova
Ms. Keri Brown
& Ms. Zenda Brown
Ms. Hazel Heckers
Mr. Steve Paulson
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shippey

Botanist Club

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Anderson-Ray
Ms. Gina G. Armitage
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Arthur
Mr. & Mrs. Del Baker
Ms. Aliciarene Peer Baldus
Ms. Sandy Barnes
Mrs. Cynthia Barringer
& Mr. Michael K. Barringer
Mr. C. Thomas Bastien
Ms. Cheryl Beabout
& Mr. Jim Beabout
Ms. Cheryl Bentley
Ms. Bernadette Berger
Ms. Doretha Berman
Ms. Carolyn Bidinger
Mr. Rick Blair
Mr. David Bohnenkamp
Mr. Richard Bracken & Mrs. Sandra Bracken
Mrs. Barbara Brannen & Mr. Michael Brannen
Ms. Patricia A. Brew
Ms. Lana S. Carlson
Mr. Randall Carver & Ms. Katherine Morris
Mr. Jerry Chamberlin & Ms. Linda Chamberlin
Mr. Stephen P. Cherner
Mr. John Clayton
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Mr. & Mrs. Russ Collins
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Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dayney
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Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Detmer, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. George Dikeou
Ms. Deborah G. Dorman & Mr. Chris Hawley
Mrs. Georgina Drummond & Mr. Timothy Drummond
Mrs. Mary Eckhoff & Mr. Neil Eckhoff
Dr. Lynn Fioretti
Robyn D. Fisher & Bonnie Fransen
Mr. Joe F. Gafford
Mr. & Mrs. Michael S. Galvan
Mr. John Garber & Ms. Annemarie Garber
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Garlock
Ms. Deborah Gartner
Ms. Joyce Giachetti & Mr. E. J. Giachetti
Ms. Phyllis Goodman
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Mr. & Mrs. Larry K. Howell
Ms. Gwen A. Huitt

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Kausch
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Mrs. Betty King & Mr. Charles W. King
Ms. Marilyn King
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Kubes
Ms. Linda A. Laman
Ms. Lily Levine
Mrs. Joan R. Lincoln & Mr. Larry Lincoln
Mr. Tom R. Lindsey
Ms. Patricia B. Lingeman
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Corrie Marilley
Ms. Cherisi G. Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. Mark McAlhaney
Ms. Judith McBride & Mr. Bruce Baumgartner
Ms. Sherri McBrien & Mr. Al Loya
Ms. Meredith McGuire & Mr. Elliott Schoen
Mr. Jerry P. McHugh, Jr. & Dr. Stacey E. McHugh
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Ms. Shirley J. Montoya & Ms. Debbie Montoya-Davis
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Ms. Diane Niedzwiecki & Mr. Pat McLaughlin
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Ms. Michelle J. Pazar
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Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shannon
Ms. Colleen Shepherd
Ms. Jan Shriver
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Mr. Richard Spencer
Ms. Viola Stekel
Ms. Ann B. Sullivan
Ms. Leslie Terry
Ms. Sharon Tinnes
Mr. Mike Torline
Mr. Timothy Travis
Mr. Ken Vaught
Mr. Aaron Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Steve M. Walker
Mr. Thomas J. Walsh
Ms. Judith A. Walter
Mr. Don Weakland
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Welch
Mrs. Rhona Wermers & Mr. Thomas Wermers
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Wiese
Mr. Warden M. Williams
Ms. Joyce Wolsky & Mr. W. J. Wolsky
Ms. Dorothy Worden
Ms. Shari Zerobnick

Four Seasons members form DBG cornerstone

Through the years, Four Seasons members have generously donated to the success of Denver Botanic Gardens. Their involvement shows a high degree of commitment to the foundation on which the Gardens was built, and a dedication to preserving and enhancing opportunities for growth.

Four Seasons members provide invaluable support for the Gardens' most essential operations:

- Horticulture that ensures beautiful and well designed gardens and displays;
- Research and preservation of rare and endangered plants;
- Education programs for children, adults and teachers; and
- Visitor services to enhance the individual experiences and appreciation of the Gardens.

In return, DBG provides valuable benefits to all Four Seasons members including invitations to exclusive events, complimentary tickets to summer concerts and discounts at many favorite local businesses.

To show your dedication and commitment to the Gardens, make a \$1,000 contribution. And we will recognize you as a member of the Four Seasons society. If you would like more information, please call Jennifer Darling, director of membership and development, at 370-8027.

New Four Seasons members

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons members who began or renewed their memberships during the second quarter of 1997.

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Baldwin
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Beise
 Mr. & Mrs. George Cannon
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Childs
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Christopher
 Dr. & Mrs. Henry Cleveland
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Danos
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hammes
 Ms. Joy Hilliard
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Klugman
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kurtz
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kurtz
 Dr. Conrad Riley
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Saunders
 Mrs. Charles Sterne
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Clark Tierney
 Ms. Janet Wierman

Corporate members help DBG succeed

Companies try to "give back to their community" by seeking ways to show their support for cultural, human services and other community organizations. Many companies have been supporting the Gardens' programs for years. DBG is grateful for their ongoing contributions and in-kind support. DBG's success depends on the continued commitment of these corporate partners.

Each year, DBG looks for new corporate members to assure the future success of community and cultural events. The Gardens offers extensive employee benefits to partner companies, as well as recognition in the community for their interest and support of DBG.

If your company is interested in becoming a member and supporting DBG's programs, please call Carol Mirenda, membership and development associate, at 370-8185.

New corporate members

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks the following corporate members who began or renewed their memberships during the second quarter of 1997.

Applewood Garden Group
 Applewood Seed Co.
 Bank of Cherry Creek
 Birdsall & Co.
 Bouquets
 Direct Marketing Design
 Echter's Greenhouse & Gardens
 Fantasy Orchid
 Great West Life
 Green By Nature
 Keyline Graphics
 Logan Street Gardens
 OppenheimerFunds
 Smith & Hawken
 Thomas & Perkins
 Wild Flowers

September

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Inside this *Green Thumb News*

Pumpkin Festival just around the corner!
page 3

Healing Plants exhibit begins this month.
page 4

Learn how to prepare your vegetable garden for the winter.
page 6

Goblins are lurking on the horizon!
page 9

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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September

- 1 Free Day at York Street
- 4 Garden Concert: Ivan Lins
- 5 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
Fête des Fleurs
- 6 Gardeners of America Plant & Produce Sale
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
Japanese Tea Ceremony
- 6 & 7 Fall Gardening Fair
Members Plant Dividend Day
- 7 *Japanese Tea Ceremony*
- 8 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 9 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
Beginning Botanical Illustration in Pencil
- 10 Behind-the-Scenes Tour—Arbor Circle level members & above
- 11 *The Perennial Advantage: Part II*
- 12 Garden Concert: Rice, Rice, Hillman and Pederson
- 13 Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
Japanese Tea Ceremony
- 13-15 *Healing Power of Plants Program*
- 14 Colorado Water Garden Society meeting
Japanese Tea Ceremony
- 15 Free Day at York Street
Autumn Antics in Your Garden
Fabulous Fall Foliage
Trees & Shrubs for the Front Range

- 16 *Seven Principles of Water-Smart Gardening*
Full Moon Hike
- 17 Herb Society of America meeting
Fall Harvest Wreath
- 18 *Ornamental Grasses*
- 20 *Fall Vegetable Garden*
Taste of Health
Making Herbal Bath Oils, Salts, Sachets, Lotions
- 20-21 *John Fielder's Photographing the Landscape*
- 21 Breakfast & Early Morning Tour—Botanist level members & above
Storytelling at the Gardens—for members only!
Rocky Mountain Branch of American Begonia Society meeting
- 22 Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 23 *Mushroom Workshop*
Medicine Wheel of Healing
- 24 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Gardens of Walt Disney World
- 25 *Bonsai Workshop: Winter Care*
- 27 High Country Judges meeting
- 28 Waxman University Photography Workshop
Southwestern Harvest
- 29 *Clinical Medicine vs. Medical Herbalism*
- 30 *Bulbs for Spring Color*

Note: Classes are in *italics*.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

October 1997



Pumpkin patch ripe for the picking

Harvesters, take note—Chatfield Arboretum's pumpkin patch is stocked full of orange fruits, just in time for the Pumpkin Festival Saturday, Oct. 11. The ninth annual event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Plenty of activities will keep families busy for the day, but the most fun for kids will be roaming the four and one-half acre patch full of different kinds of pumpkins and gourds. Pumpkin prices will be based on their size and weight, 50 cents and up.

Volunteers and local craft vendors have been busy preparing authentic harvest goods—wood crafts, pioneer crafts and more. Other activities will be hayrides, a chance to have your picture taken within a harvest setting, make-it and take-it craft projects and games for kids.

KOOL Radio will be on-hand providing enjoyable family music, and several food vendors will offer items to satisfy every appetite.

Festival-goers are asked to leave their pets at home, but bring a wheelbarrow or wagon to tote the pumpkins back to your car—they're heavier than they look! Last year's increased parking areas successfully solved the traffic dilemmas of previous years and will be used again this year.

Admission to the festival is free for children 5 and younger. For DBG members 6 and older cost is \$2. For nonmembers it is \$2 for children 6 to 15 and \$4 for adults.

Chatfield Arboretum is located at 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road in Littleton. For more information call 973-3705.

Discover the future of herbal medicines

Learn about the future role of plants in modern medicine as DBG hosts members from the medical and research community on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

With the current resurgence of public interest in herbal remedies, there is increased awareness in both the traditional and alternative medical community regarding the healing power of plants.

This day-long program begins with "Herbal Medicines in Conventional Health," presented by David J. Kroll, Ph.D., from the School of Pharmacy, University of Colorado. Kroll has established an herbal medicine module in the undergraduate pharmacy curriculum at the C.U. School of Pharmacy. He feels his role is to educate pharmacists, other health care professionals and the public that herbal remedies should be viewed as complementary—not alternative—medicine and treated with the same respect and caution accorded to over-the-counter drugs. He is an assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology at C.U. and has been named to the Professional Advisory Board of Herb Research.

Next, James S. Miller, associate curator and head of the applied research department at Missouri Botanical Garden, will discuss "Medicinal Miracles of the Future." Researchers at Missouri Botanical Garden are at the forefront of collecting plants for medical research. Thirteen recently discovered botanical compounds may have startling medical significance. Dr. Miller will describe the collaborative search for these new medicinal compounds between the garden, the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups, the Monsanto Company and the National Cancer Institute and will highlight the new plant discoveries that could change the face of medicine today. This is a unique opportunity to learn about plant hunters firsthand from a modern-day explorer.

The program will conclude with a panel discussion hosted by Dr. Sharon Montes, M.D. Dr. Montes is on the faculty of family medicine at the University of Colorado Medical Center and at Rose Family Medicine, where she also teaches. A family practitioner as well, she has taught courses on alternative medicine. The diverse panel will address homeopathic medicine and take a look at alternative medicines as they currently are used by many people in the Denver metropolitan area.

The program is \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. For more information, a schedule or to register, call 370-8020.



Echinacea purpurea, purple
coneflower, drawn by Paul R.
Martin

Green Thumb News October 1997

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edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for Dec. issue: Oct. 17

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	331-4009
<i>9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

One of the great pleasures of working at Denver Botanic Gardens is having the opportunity to work collaboratively with sister institutions around the country. Hardly a week goes by that we do not get asked for information about our plant collections, programs or plans that others hope to learn from. We exchange seeds with other gardens, both in this country and around the world.

Most recently, the Boettcher Conservatory renovation project has created opportunities to share plant materials with others. After selecting the plants we wanted to keep for the renovated conservatory, we contacted gardens, zoos and schools and offered them the opportunity to take the rest of the plants for display and education purposes elsewhere.

Now, Jim Henrich, DBG's director of horticulture, and Gary Davis, our manager of the conservatory and all our greenhouses, have just returned from Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla., where they were given nearly 250 specimen plants—orchids, bromeliads and other epiphytes—that will grace the conservatory when it reopens. During the coming months, we will be receiving other special plants from other gardens that will enhance our collections. Many of the plants shared by gardens with each other simply are not available otherwise.

The community of public gardens is a wonder to people in other professions, where not even information is freely shared. This is a special group of institutions with staff who are truly committed to our joint purposes of sharing our love and understanding of plants with all.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Tree-mendously beautiful trees for sale

It may seem early to be thinking about the holidays, but the staff at Chatfield Arboretum already is busy planning the second annual "Tree-mendous Kick-off" to Blossoms of Light Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas trees—Noble firs, Scotch pines and Douglas firs—wreaths and festive decorations will be for sale, and children can enjoy fun craft activities throughout the day. Members can order their tree early and receive a discount, then pick it up the day of the sale. Watch next month's *Green Thumb News* for an order form and more information, or call 973-3705.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the parking lot construction crews should be sweeping up the last of the dust from their two-month project. The expanded and improved lot, now more than twice the size of the original lot, will enable the Gardens to better accommodate visitors to the Healing Power of Plants Display, the Holiday Sale and Blossoms of Light.

Construction will continue on the Romantic Gardens as long as the weather permits. The project still is scheduled to be completed next spring, when the horticulture staff will begin the exciting task of planting the beautiful new gardens.

Though the conservatory renovation project has not moved along as quickly as originally hoped, many new plants already have been obtained and will be nurtured in our greenhouses until their new home reopens. Even with the delays, the conservatory still is scheduled to reopen late in 1998.

School tours with a theme offered this fall

This fall DBG will be piloting a new program for elementary school children, "Elementary School Tours with a Theme." The first program, developed in collaboration with the education department, the horticulture department and the volunteer guide program, will highlight the healing power of plants and include hands-on activities, a visit to DBG's new exhibit by the same name, and a tour of the Morrison Center Sensory Garden or the Japanese Garden. The program began Sept. 23 and will continue through Nov. 6. It is appropriate for second- to sixth-grade classes.

If you would like more information about this program or volunteer opportunities related to the program, call Gail Shands, youth education coordinator, 370-8043, or Joedy Arnold, volunteer coordinator, 370-8049.

Explore the world on a DBG trip

Denver Botanic Gardens recently appointed Pam Rathke as travel coordinator for the Gardens. She will expand DBG's existing travel program, develop additional programs for family-oriented trips and create in-bound garden and wildflower tours of Colorado. If you have input for the types of trips or destinations you would like considered, call 370-8051. Also, watch for details on the spring tour of Arizona in next month's *Green Thumb News*.

Three types of plants highlighted this month

Three very different types of plants—bonsais, African violets and orchids—will be highlighted at DBG shows and sales this month.

First, the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will hold its annual show Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 and 5. Expert bonsai trainers will be on-hand providing demonstrations and featuring bonsai trees in their fall color. Bonsai plants and supplies will be for sale. The show is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Then, the Denver Orchid Society's fall show and sale will be Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 11 and 12. The event, called the "Rocky Mountain Orchid Roundup," will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Numerous orchid vendors will be selling a variety of plants for beginners and avid collectors. The Orchid Doctor and other experienced orchid growers will be on-hand to answer questions about orchid culture. The public is invited to bring in samples of problem orchid plants for diagnosis.

Finally, the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council will hold its fall sale Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hundreds of African violets will be for sale, and expert growers will be on-hand to offer advice on how to grow these popular flowering plants.

All shows and sales are in John C. Mitchell II Hall and are included with admission to the Gardens (free to members). For more information call 331-4000.

Holiday shopping just around the corner

It's time to start making your holiday shopping list and planning for DBG's annual Holiday Sale Nov. 14 and 15.

The event is one of the largest holiday sales in the region and includes a cornucopia of items made by DBG volunteers from plant material grown right here at the Gardens. Herbed vinegars, dried flowers, potpourri gifts and Chatfield Arboretum's delicious honey top the list of the most popular items. Shoppers also will find the largest variety of unusual gifts for all the nature- or garden-lovers on their holiday shopping list.

Admission to the sale—and the Gardens—is free for members and nonmembers. As a member, you'll receive 10 percent off all your purchases. Mark your calendars now, then watch next month's *Green Thumb News* for complete information on the sale.

Learn how to garden in the West

Four regional experts will present a day-long symposium, "A New Frontier: Western Gardening Approaches," in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Regional gardeners are developing their own sense of place and style, inspired by the open vistas, rugged landscapes, vibrant flowers and arid climates of the West. You'll take home ideas for your own style of landscaping using plants best suited for your growing conditions.

Jim Knopf will begin the day talking about "Inspired by Nature: Beautiful Water-Wise Landscaping." He will show examples and offer design suggestions for evocative natural landscapes.

Next, Kelly Grummons will present "Bursting the Myths: These Plants are Available." During the past few years local nurseries have made a special effort to grow and sell more unusual plants. In this talk you'll learn about these unique plants and where you can find them.

After lunch Susan Yetter will explain how to combine strong structural elements and garden design principles using local materials and adapted plants in her talk, "The Urban Frontier." The result can be a smaller urban garden with a distinctly regional flavor.

Finally, Marcia Tatroe's "Beyond Green: Color for Colorado Gardens" will highlight water-smart flowers that can provide seasonal bursts of color in a Western garden. You'll see that Colorado's plant palette has an exuberance of flowers and foliage of contrasting colors, shapes and textures to choose from. The program will conclude with a panel discussion with the four experts.

Cost is \$46 for members, \$57 for nonmembers and includes all handouts and lunch. For more information or to register call 370-8020.

DBG Gift Shop joins Kaleidoscope fun

More than 20 area museum, cultural and non-profit gift shops, including Denver Botanic Gardens', will gather colorful, fascinating and unusual gifts to sell at the third annual 4 Parents Helpline Kaleidoscope benefit Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The bazaar will be at the new Stapleton Events Center in east Denver. All-day admission is \$3.50; children younger than 12 are admitted free.

Admission and event activities fees benefit 4 Parents Helpline, a free and confidential phone service that offers support, information and referrals to more than 16,500 families annually. For more information call 534-3789.

Employee of the month

Darlene Duran, administrative assistant in the horticulture department, was voted by her co-workers as August's employee of the month. Darlene is recognized for never saying "it's not my job" but always voluntarily taking on additional responsibilities. This is exemplified by her work with the Computer Help Desk, helping to track and solve everyone's computer problems. She also ensures that staff at Chatfield Arboretum receives information they may miss otherwise by faxing them daily e-mails every afternoon. Congratulations, Darlene!

Plan now for winter tulips

Shop soon for the best selection of bulbs for indoor forcing. Carefully selected and grown, they'll provide weeks of color and fragrance and satisfy that "gardening itch" at a time when the major horticultural pursuit is browsing seed catalogs.

It is quite a simple activity. The plump bulbs already contain next spring's flowers; you simply provide the conditions to coax them out.

Choose containers for the bulbs creatively. Although typical clay or plastic pots will suffice, almost anything with good drainage will do. Since the bulbs will occupy the container for just two to four months, durability and practicality can be somewhat disregarded. Excessive room for the bulbs' roots is not necessary, but daffodils and narcissus prefer somewhat deeper containers than others.

Although hyacinths will grow in water, most forced bulbs should be planted in soil. A bottom layer of pea gravel, small pebbles or similar material for drainage should be followed by a layer of good potting soil to a minimum depth equivalent to the height of the bulb.

Plant one kind or variety per container, and crowd as many bulbs next to each other as space will allow. Fill soil around the bulbs and water thoroughly. The bulb tops should be at or just below the soil surface near the container's rim.

Tender bulbs, such as amaryllis and paper-white narcissus, are ready to grow and will sprout in a couple of weeks. Most others need a cold treatment before they will grow and flower. Depending on species, eight to 12 weeks of temperatures between 40° and 50° F are required.

A cool, dark spot with a temperature of 45° F is ideal. This location could be outdoors with mulching (the bulbs must be kept from freezing), a cool garage or basement. Refrigeration, however, is hard to beat. Be sure to label each pot with the name of the bulb and the date planted. Check the pots frequently, and keep the soil moist, not soggy.

When bulbs begin to sprout, move them to a cool, sunny spot. Direct light for a few hours daily and temperatures of 50° to 60° F are best. (How about a drafty windowsill?) Most will flower about three weeks hence, but at this stage light and temperature greatly affect quality and time of flowering.

By planting and/or bringing the bulbs out of cold storage over a period of several weeks, you can enjoy a long flowering season next winter. Plant some extra pots—they make great holiday gifts.



October gardening chores

Exactly when the outdoor gardening season will end is anyone's guess, but here are some fall gardening ideas and activities that should be appropriate at some time during the month.

- Collect seeds and cuttings or dig and pot non-hardy garden plants that you want to save for next year.
- After killing frost, clean up dead plants and debris from vegetable gardens and annual beds.
- Plant hardy bulbs for spring display.
- Fertilize the lawn. (It's one of the best times of the year for it.)
- Transplant trees, shrubs and roses after the leaves have fallen.
- As cold weather arrives, mulch shrub borders and perennial beds with chopped leaves you've bagged off your lawn with the lawnmower.
- Planting may continue as long as the ground is not frozen. (Maybe all winter.)
- Till or spade compost or organic matter into the soil of vegetable and flower beds.
- Make notes on horticultural successes and failures to help in planning your 1998 garden.

If all this has been done, go purchase that gardening book you've been wanting to read (or come and check it out from DBG's Helen K. Fowler Library).

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. How can I get my Christmas cactus to bloom for the holidays?

A. The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera* spp. and hybrids) is a thornless tropical epiphyte. Bud formation is initiated in either of two ways: short day length in autumn (nights longer than 12 hours) or cool temperatures (50° to 60° F) during the same period. Lamplight during the evening hours, even for a few minutes, can prevent flowering on plants grown in warm rooms. The best flowering seems to occur on plants grown in cool locations during fall and winter because bud formation may continue for weeks. Since the plant tolerates temperatures into the '40s, it would seem to be an ideal candidate for a cool windowsill, greenhouse window or semi-heated porch.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call 370-8068.

Hail, hail, hail

On Monday, Aug. 11, sections of the Denver metropolitan area were hit late in the afternoon by a powerful hail and rain storm. The storm pummeled the Gardens with nickel- to quarter-size hail for about 25 minutes and about 1.5 inches of rain. In short order many of the tender plants were reduced to coleslaw, an aromatic coleslaw at that. No long-term damage was sustained, although 14 glass panes were broken and several dozen panes were cracked in the production greenhouses. Look for details about which plants were most seriously damaged, what remediation steps were taken and which plants recovered in an upcoming issue of *Green Thumb News*.

Our new gardens: The Hildreth shade garden

This last article in the series on the gardens of the Romantic Gardens focuses on the Hildreth Shade Garden. Nestled just south of the Fragrance Garden and east of the Herb Garden it will feature a lone shade tree and underplantings of native shade tolerant plants. This garden is made possible by a generous contribution from the Denver Botanic Gardens Associates.



Plantalk

C o l o r a d o TM

Introducing 24-hour answers for the Colorado gardener beginning October 13, 1997

Plantalk ColoradoTM is a 24-hour toll-free automated phone service that provides you with reliable, timely information on a variety of horticultural topics. Plantalk Colorado is sponsored by Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Denver Botanic Gardens and the Green Industries of Colorado.

About the Service

Plantalk Colorado can be accessed by using any touch-tone phone. Topics range from Annuals to XeriscapeTM — and everything in between — that gardeners need to know in the variable climate and micro-climates of Colorado.

How to Obtain Information

Dial 1-888-666-3063

Then press the number for the choice you wish to make from the menu.

Menu

Press 1 to hear about a topic

Enter subject code to hear message (listed on back)

To replay that message press 1

To hear a new message press 2

Press 2 to leave your comments about Plantalk Colorado

Helpful hints for the above choices

Press 5 to rewind 10 seconds back at any time during the message.

Press * to return to the main menu at any time during the call.

Hang up to exit the system at any time.



Denver Botanic Gardens



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1002 Ornamental grasses
1003 Planning and plants for an herb garden
1004 Sunflowers

- 1100 Design**
1101 Colorado garden style
1102 Containers for container gardening
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Plant a bur oak

Riverside Cemetery was one of the first places in Denver where a beautiful bur oak was planted. Slow growing, long-lived, but eventually tall and majestic, the bur oak is regarded by many as a tree well-worth planting. Known as "Uskuyecha-hu" by the Dakota, "Tashka-hi" by the Omaha-Ponca, "Chashke-hu" by the Winnebag and "Patki-natawawi" by the Pawnee, the French botanist Michaux gave the tree its Latin name, *Quercus macrocarpa*, in 1795 during his early spring trip to the area around what is currently Nashville, Tenn. Its bark, leaves and acorns were used by many indigenous peoples as food and medicine. Various methods were used to remove the tannin from the acorns before eating them. One method was to bury the acorns over the winter, and in the spring, enough tannin had been removed to make the acorn edible.

The tree is very adaptable to an urban setting in Colorado. It is a pioneer species at the edge of Colorado's eastern prairies. It advances westward based on the amount of water it receives. With lots of water, the tree can grow tall and impressive; the tallest ones grow in Indiana and Illinois. In Nebraska, they are tall along rivers and in canyons. On the gently rolling plains, they are scrubby. Because they are adapted to drought conditions in their native habitats, bur oaks do quite well here, where we only receive about 15 inches of precipitation a year. Just adding another 4 inches per year for a bur oak will create, in time, a beautiful tree.

For more information about bur oak look at the following sources in the Helen K. Fowler Library:

Crisp, Katharine Bruderlin. *Trees of Denver*. Thesis. Department of Biology, University of Colorado, 1933. QK 150 C7 1933 Ref.

Gilmore, Milvin R. *Uses of Plants by the Indians of the Missouri River Region*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1977. E 78 N82 G5667 1977.

Kuhnlein, Harriet V. & Nancy J. Turner. *Traditional Plant Foods of Canadian Indigenous Peoples*. Philadelphia: Gordon & Breach Science Publishers, 1991. E 78 .C2 K9 1991.

Moerman, Daniel E. *Medicinal Plants of Native America*. [S.l.]: University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology, 1986. E 98 .B7 M6 1986.

Peattie, Donald Culross. *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1950. QK 481 P3Na.

Sargent, Charles Sprague. *The Silva of North America*. New York: Peter Smith, 1947. QK 481 S3 Ref.



Sparkling bubbles ruby grass

Plant Select® profile

Sparkling bubbles ruby grass (*Rhynchelytrum nerviglume*) was chosen by DBG and C.S.U. as one of six Plant Select® choices for 1998—plants of superior garden merit for the Rocky Mountain region.

Members are sure to have admired this exotic annual grass that has been used for nearly 14 years throughout the grounds at DBG. Originally received from Harrismith Botanic Gardens as part of a seed exchange program, this grass has dazzled staff and visitor alike for years with its mercurial, shimmering flowers and seedheads that really do look like champagne being poured. This is the first year it is being offered on a wide scale in commerce anywhere in the U.S. It will be available for purchase at DBG's annual Plant & Book Sale May 8 and 9, 1998, and at garden centers and nurseries next spring.

Bur oak trials at Chatfield Arboretum

Chatfield Arboretum has been participating in a bur oak evaluation with the Colorado State Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture since 1993. The purpose of the project is to identify seed sources of bur oak that are best adapted for planting in the Great Plains region and to provide a varied gene pool to be used for future breeding and selection.

Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is a hardy, drought tolerant, long-lived tree capable of adapting to a wide range of growing conditions. The Front Range is a bit west of its native range, but we have found it to be a very reliable performer. When mature, the bur oak exhibits a classic form. Its branches extend at right angles from the trunk and can spread up to 50 feet. In autumn, its leaves turn a soft yellow, and the trees are covered with the most wonderful mossy-cupped acorns.

Acorns were collected from about 200 areas throughout the Midwest and Great Plains states. There are several other test sites in Colorado that also will be evaluating the oaks. No extraordinary methods will be used to maintain the trees, so the trees that survive the test period can truly be said to grow well in our area.

Our particular plots of bur oaks are situated in three groups at the southeast side of the Arboretum. I'm very impressed with their ability to cope with the harsh conditions of our area, and they have put out an impressive amount of growth this season. I would highly recommend the bur oak as a welcome addition to any landscape. And who can resist a good acorn fight on a warm autumn afternoon?

Kathy Kircher, Horticulturist
Chatfield Arboretum

Community Gardens season draws to a close

As the community gardens season draws to a close this month (the gates close Nov. 2) the gardeners are busy preparing for winter, like so many other birds and animals. In individual plots gardeners are harvesting, clearing away annual plants, amending soil and planting cover crops. Together, they are cleaning tools, taking inventory of seeds, putting away hoses and building massive compost piles. Community gardens will be featured regularly in *Green Thumb News* next season, so you will hear more about them in 1998.

If you have not yet walked through the community gardens this year, please do. The mid-August hail storm wiped out many of the hot crops—cabbage, squash and corn—that gardeners had carefully cultivated since May and were just starting to harvest. But some crops rebounded well. The gardens are beautiful again with new growth and cool-weather crops, and they are open daily from dawn to dusk.

You are invited to a day of bulb planting on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bulb donations are needed—donate one bulb or 100. Any bulbs that aren't used will be given to other Denver community gardens. Next year the community gardens will start their show in March! If you would like to plant or donate bulbs, call Selina Rossiter, 370-8042.

Selina Rossiter
Community Gardens Coordinator

Learn to make wild, wonderful arrangements

This year's gardening season will end with a flourish as expert floral arranger Hardie Newton shows "Wild and Wonderful Arrangements" at the final Bonfils-Stanton lecture Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Whether you are interested in arranging a bouquet of flowers from your garden or imported tropical plants, you'll come away from this demonstration knowing the three steps to make beautiful bouquets in glass vases—and how to make them last.

Newton is recognized for her stunning floral designs that incorporate the wilderness. Her work has been featured in newspapers, on television and in magazines such as *Southern Accents* and *Garden Design*. Her book, *Celebration of Flowers*, shows all types of floral arrangements. Since 1980 her design work has been commissioned for the Corcoran Gallery of Art, National Geography Society, Airlie House and Montpelier, along with many other public and private spaces.

The lecture series has been generously supported by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation since 1987. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. Helen Fowler Library will remain open from 6 to 7 p.m. the evening of the lecture. DBG's Gift Shop carries books by the speaker, who will autograph your purchases after the lecture. To register or for more information call 370-8020 or 370-8019.

International Water Lily Society meets at DBG

The International Water Lily Society (IWLS) met at Denver Botanic Gardens on Tuesday, Aug. 12, as part of its annual international meeting. Featured speakers at the one-day visit to the Gardens were Joseph V. Tomocik, DBG's aquatic horticulturist, who spoke about the water garden collection at DBG; and Dr. Satomi Watanabe, professor of Environmental Bioresource Development at Tokyo University, who spoke on lotus hybrids.

The highlight of the day was to have been a tour of DBG's landscape displays—foremost among them, the water gardens. The tours were conducted, but because of the devastating hail storm the day before, the water lilies and most other aquatic plants had been converted to confetti! Although the plants were temporarily decimated, a few flowers were available to view. Apparent, despite the hail damage, was the massive diversity of DBG's collection made possible by generous contributions from private and commercial collections from members of the IWLS.

Tomocik, with assistance from the Colorado Water Garden Society and DBG interns, dedicated a tremendous number of hours to planning and executing the water garden display in preparation for this conference of international visitors.

Tragedy turns to triumph

On Aug. 11, just hours before they were to be judged by an international panel, the blooms of DBG's water lilies were destroyed by a fast-moving hail storm. In response to this unfortunate event, the Photographer's Gallery in Cherry Creek North is donating 10 percent of the proceeds from a special water lily exhibit to the Gardens.

The exhibit features photographs of DBG water lilies before the storm taken by Lisa G. Burkhart, an award-winning local photographer. A reception for the exhibit will be Oct. 11 from noon to 4 p.m. Guests can purchase the photos and register to win a framed photo. The exhibit will run through Oct. 19. The Photographer's Gallery is at 2424 E. Third Ave. For information call 780-9317.



Hardie Newton

Medicinal mushrooms explored at DBG

This year's Carl W. Tempel Lecture, "From Taxol to Kombusha: Mushrooms in Medicine," will be on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall. The talk will be presented by Vera Evenson, associate curator of the herbarium of fungi at DBG and author of *Mushrooms of Colorado and the Southern Rocky Mountains*.

Although many people are aware of the importance of the drug Taxol for fighting cancer, few realize that the source of this drug is a fungus growing on Pacific yews. During her colorful slide show, Evenson will discuss the importance of environmental conservation for future human generations looking to fungi, as well as other plants, as sources for medicines.

DBG's Helen Fowler Library will stay open the evening of the lecture from 6 to 7 p.m. Evenson will autograph copies of her book, which will be available in the Gift Shop, after the lecture. The program is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. Call to reserve your ticket, 370-8020.

Tributes

In memory of Mark L. Cilento

Lou and Elizabeth Cilento

In memory of Mary Hart Smith

Mrs. Nancy Ashby

Mr. and Mrs. David Greene

Mrs. Nancy Lawson

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Wood

In memory of Mary E. Houghland

Linda Roberts Zin

In memory of Lenabelle Ice and Winfred W. Anderson

Linda L. Goto

In memory of Davis W. Moore

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

In memory of Israel and Sylvia Ruda

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hull

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Moskowitz with Elisheva, Abby and Ariela

Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Ruda with Emily, Charlie and Shauna

In honor of Richard H. Daley

National Herb Society of America

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

Vegetable gardens highlighted next month

Mary Tonetti Dorra will present a slide lecture, "Beautiful American Vegetable Gardens," at a program presented by the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs at DBG Friday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m.

In her slide lecture, based on her book of the same name, Dorra will discuss the emergence of an American gardening style, the roots of which go back to Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. She will highlight some of the 24 vegetable gardens that are explored in her book. Dorra's book will be available for purchase, and she will sign copies after the lecture.

The lecture will be in Mitchell Hall. Tickets are \$15. For more information call 303-451-0323.

From your membership office

Pumpkin Fest freebie

Kids, come by the membership booth at the Pumpkin Festival Oct. 11, say hello and pick up a free DBG pencil. It's going to be fun day at the Arboretum!

The goblins are coming!

DBG's member-only "Goblins in the Gardens" is a fun, safe way to celebrate Halloween. You can have a gobliny great time trick-or-treating through the Haunted Jungle Trail, creating creepy crafts, hearing ghastly ghost stories and enjoying fang-tastic monster munchies!

The event will be held twice on Sunday, Oct. 26: 1 to 3 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Members will receive invitations in the mail and should specify their desired time on the reservation form. Cost is \$5; children 2 and younger are free. For telephone reservations call 370-8187 beginning Sept. 29. Space for this event is very limited, so make reservations early. And come in costume—or else!

Holiday Sale discount

The Holiday Sale Nov. 14 and 15 is coming up soon. Be sure you have a current membership card to show at check-out so you can receive your 10 percent discount on all purchases made during the sale.

Year-end gift offer

Now through the end of the year, all new gift memberships will include a free \$5 Gift Shop certificate. Memberships are a great way to say "Thanks," "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Holidays!" They may be purchased at the Information Desk, in the library or by calling 370-8029. Remember, too, that all DBG members will receive one free visit for two adults and their children to Blossoms of Light through Jan. 4. Watch for your coupon in the December newsletter.

Call Planttalk Colorado

For the next two months DBG members can participate in a test horticulture information phone line. The phone line will "go public" at the beginning of the year—this is your chance to preview it before the rest of the state. Check out the insert in this month's newsletter for complete information on how to get your horticulture questions answered.

Display photos needed

Denver Botanic Gardens currently is looking for high-quality flower pictures to be used in an upcoming interpretation program. If you have photographs, negatives or transparencies that you would be willing to share with the Gardens, please call Paula Ogilvie, 370-8041.

October

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Members, check out the Planttalk Colorado™ insert in this month's *Green Thumb News*.
You can be among the first to receive answers for all your horticulture questions—24 hours a day!



Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Address correction requested

October

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 <i>Landscape Design Workshop</i></p> <p>3 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum</p> <p>4 <i>Forcing Bulbs</i>
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
American Iris Society meeting</p> <p>4,5 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Show</p> <p>5 <i>The World of Tea I</i></p> <p>6 Free Day at York Street
<i>Stricty Structure: Garden Elements</i></p> <p>7 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting</p> <p>9 <i>Beginning Bonsai</i>
<i>Introduction to Horticultural Therapy</i></p> <p>11 Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum
<i>Winterize Your Rose Garden</i>
<i>Tree Walk at Fairmount Cemetery</i>
<i>Brandywine Critters</i>
<i>Planning and Planting Your Own Medicinal Garden</i>
<i>A Woman's Garden</i>
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting</p> <p>11,12 Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale</p> <p>13 Colorado Mycological Society meeting</p> <p>14 <i>Herbal Pet Care</i>
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting</p> <p>15 <i>Medicine Wheel of Healing II</i>
National American Rock Garden Society meeting
Herb Society of America meeting</p> <p>16 <i>Natural Style Flower Arranging</i>
<i>Gods, Goddesses & Useful Plants</i></p> | <p>18 <i>Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tours</i>
<i>Homestyle Tinctures</i>
<i>Simple Soaps</i>
<i>The Spirited Woman</i></p> <p>18,19 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Fall Sale</p> <p>19 Rocky Mountain Branch of American Begonia Society meeting</p> <p>21 <i>Botany for Gardeners</i>
<i>Healing Herbal Teas</i></p> <p>20 <i>Floral Arranging I</i></p> <p>21 <i>Drawing Plants in Pen & Ink</i>
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop</p> <p>22 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Wild and Wonderful Arrangements
<i>Get a Jump on Spring</i></p> <p>23 <i>Gardener's Ecology</i>
Ikebana International meeting
African Violet Society of Denver meeting
Gardeners of America meeting</p> <p>25 <i>Rocky Mountain Horticulture I</i>
<i>Pioneer Graves at Fairmount Cemetery</i>
<i>Getting Savvy with Salves</i></p> <p>26 Goblins in the Gardens—for members only!</p> <p>27 <i>Pumpkin Creations at Chatfield Arboretum</i>
Ultra Violet Club meeting</p> <p>28 <i>Mayan Medicine in the Modern World</i></p> <p>29 <i>Orchids for Beginners</i></p> <p>30 <i>The World of Tea II</i></p> |
|---|--|

Note: Classes are in *italics*.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

November 1997



Holiday Sale a sure cure for shopping blues

Remember, as a child, what anticipation you had, what excitement you felt around the holidays? Do you recall what your parents were doing during that time of the year? Now you know, they were running all around town, trying to complete their shopping chores. But shopping for the holidays doesn't have to be a chore — there's one-stop shopping at Denver Botanic Gardens! The Gift Shop staff and volunteer groups have put together a dynamite selection of interesting items for DBG's annual Holiday Sale Friday and Saturday, Nov. 14 and 15.

Shoppers will find an astonishing collection of handmade ornaments and potpourri items that make wonderful hostess and teacher gifts. Stationary, notecards, calendars and address books also will be for sale in ample variety and supply. A bounty of angels will make the sale heavenly this year — look for elegant 18-inch brass angels selling for \$10, and huge 36-inch brass angels for \$20.

Even the youngest children on your shopping list will be thrilled with the selection of puzzles and old-fashioned spinning tops (no batteries needed), art kits, T-shirts and other fun and educational toys.

Hundreds of gardening books will be available — a few were even written by DBG staff. Plant lovers on your list will bloom with excitement when you give them books, filled with ideas and helpful gardening hints, that they can read throughout the winter months. The Herb Society of America will join in the sale this year, offering herbs and other products to please the culinary gardeners on your list.

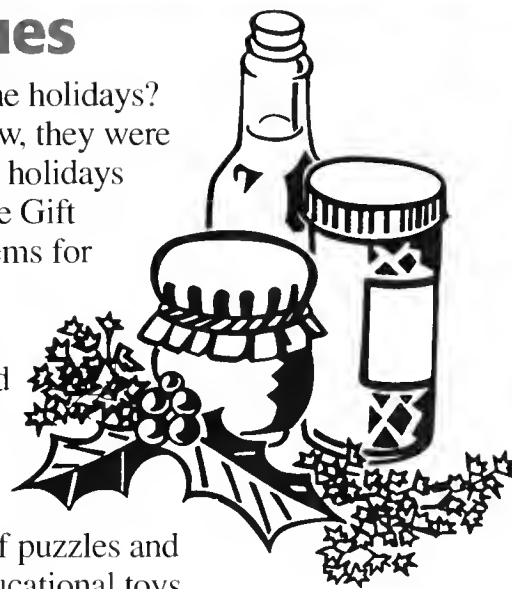
You can expect to find your favorite holiday sale items, as well. The volunteers of the DBG Guild have rolled up their sleeves, collected and dried flowers from DBG's own cutting garden. Naturalists will love the hundreds of dried flower bouquets, bulk flowers and grasses that have been beautifully packaged into all sizes and price ranges. The always-popular handmade herbed vinegars also will be available in large supply and tantalizing flavors — chile pepper, French tarragon, herbal, garlic dill, lemon thyme and opal basil. The vinegars were made with herbs from DBG's herb garden.

Chatfield Arboretum's volunteers have been busy as bees making "the best darn honey by a dam site." Jars of this honey are one of the most popular gifts at the sale, so come early while supplies last.

The Holiday Sale is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and is free to members and nonmembers alike. As a member, you will receive 10 percent off all your purchases of more than \$10.

Mark your calendar for the sale — it's sure to make your holiday shopping easier. Remember to reward yourself with just a little something, too!

Dina Pownell
Gift Shop Manager



A bounty of handmade and unique items will be available at this month's Holiday Sale.

Green Thumb News November 1997

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
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horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for Jan. issue: Nov. 21

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.	
Gift Shop	331-4009
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Closed major holidays.	
Offices	
Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

Denver Botanic Gardens has just received a wonderful gift of "viewing stones" called Suiseki. This collection was given in honor of long-time trustee and past Board president Bea Taplin by an anonymous donor.

Suiseki, which often are displayed with bonsai, are naturally formed stones that suggest scenes from nature, such as mountains or islands. The term "Suiseki" derives from the Japanese characters for water (sui) and stone (seki), hence a "water stone" — a stone that has been shaped and smoothed, usually by the erosive action of water. This art form originated in China two millennia ago and much later was incorporated into Japanese culture, and now into the West.

The donated collection consists of five stones. They were recently displayed in the bonsai show at the Gardens in October. The stones are displayed in handmade trays and range in size from about six inches on a side to more than twice that size. They come from Italy, Wales and the deserts of California.

Few botanic gardens are fortunate enough to have such a collection, making this donation all the more important to us. The collection reminds us of the many, many ways that botanic gardens can enlarge our imagination, lift our spirits and enrich our lives. The stones will be displayed periodically until a permanent, indoor display location is created for them.

Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Learn about fungi, Western gardening

Vera Evenson will highlight the importance of mushrooms in a slide presentation, "From Taxol to Kombusha: Mushrooms in Medicine, Facts and Folklore," Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. Evenson, associate curator of DBG's herbarium of fungi and author of *Mushrooms of Colorado and the Southern Rocky Mountains*, will discuss the use of mushrooms as sources of healing medicines and their role in the environment. She will autograph copies of her book, which will be available in the gift shop, the evening of the lecture. Cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

Then, learn how to landscape using plants best suited for Western growing conditions at a day-long symposium Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Regional experts Jim Knopf, Kelly Grummons, Susan Yetter and Marcia Tatroe will share their ideas on landscaping that reflects the region's open vistas, rugged landscapes, vibrant flowers and arid climate. Cost is \$46 for members and \$57 for nonmembers and includes lunch.

Both programs are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. To register, call 370-8020.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

When you visit the Holiday Sale Nov. 14 and 15, the most obvious change at the Gardens will be the expanded and improved parking lot. After several months of construction on York and Josephine streets, drivers are happy once again with both lanes in each direction open, and staff is ecstatic with how the parking lot and street renovation turned out! The horticulture staff will begin planting trees along the streets this month, but the majority of the planting and landscaping in and around the new lot will take place next spring.

Work on the Romantic Gardens project continues. Demolition and excavating have been completed, and the crews now are working on foundations and footings for the walls and the canal.

After a long planning and bid process, physical construction in the conservatory will begin again this month. Progress continues to be made on this project, even when not seen by the public. Shipments of new plant material have begun arriving, and DBG's plant propagator already has spent countless hours caring for the numerous cuttings taken from plants before they were donated to other gardens and zoos.

Don't miss 'Blossoms' opening night

Denver Botanic Gardens' month-long "Blossoms of Light" holiday celebration will light up Saturday, Dec. 6, with a special opening night ceremony.

This first night only, gates will open at 5:15 p.m., and the outdoor displays will illuminate after a dramatic countdown at approximately 5:30 p.m. It will be televised live on KMGH-TV Channel 7's evening news. Metro on the Mall Chorus will entertain outside, and Cherry Creek Dance will take the stage in Mitchell Hall.

Free cookies and hot apple cider will be provided, while supplies last, from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost for opening night festivities is the same as for every other evening of Blossoms: \$3 for member adults, \$1 for seniors and youth 6 to 15. Nonmember tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and youth. All children 5 and younger are admitted free.

Blossoms of Light continues every evening from 6 to 9 p.m. through Jan. 4. For more information, see the insert in this month's newsletter, or call 370-8187.

Ignite the season with 'Blossoms' concerts, teas

3

In conjunction with December's "Blossoms of Light" celebration (see insert), four holiday concerts and seven Teddy Bear Teas have been planned next month.

The main lecture hall will be the site for specially-ticketed evenings of holiday music. Back by popular demand, Wind Machine will perform acoustic holiday favorites Dec. 10 and 11. Lannie Garrett will bring her big-band sounds to the Gardens Dec. 16. The Denver Brass will play lively holiday classics Dec. 18. Holiday concerts sell out fast. See the insert in this month's newsletter for ticket prices and ordering information. (Please note that the lecture hall will not be open for public viewing during concert evenings, but other free musical entertainment will be in the lobby court or outdoors.)

Children can bring their favorite doll or Teddy bear and party-loving adult to the Gardens for high tea Dec. 6, 13 or 14. "Teddy Bear Teas," dress-up parties, based on modified British high teas, offer delicious kid's food, flavored teas, desserts and entertainment for children 3 to 10 years old. This year marks the 10th annual for the ever-popular Teddy Bear Teas, and the entertainment is better than ever! Puppet Masters will perform crowd-pleasing puppet shows on Dec. 6 and 14. On Dec. 13, Eric West will entertain children and adults alike with spellbinding tales.

Teas are offered on Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; on Dec. 13 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; and on Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Reservations are required and seating is very limited.

To order concert or Teddy Bear Tea tickets, send in the order form in this month's *Green Thumb News* insert, or stop by the DBG box office at the front gate Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Nov. 17. (Ticket box office will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27.)

For more information call 370-8187

Second annual awards honor three

Denver Botanic Gardens presented three awards to honor outstanding individuals and organizations for contributions to the improvement of the environment, to education and to horticulture at a second annual ceremony at the Gardens Sept. 22.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Children's Garden Program was awarded the Denver Botanic Gardens Medal. The Medal honors those who acknowledge the needs to preserve the natural environment and conserve rare, threatened or endangered plants and their habitats. Since 1914 the Children's Garden Program has influenced the lives of tens of thousands of city children. Each year nearly 500 boys and girls learn about plants and their cultivation by tending their own garden plot. They learn practical conservation techniques, such as recycling and composting, along with more fundamental characteristics — responsibility, cooperation and an appreciation for the environment. The Children's Garden Program has served as a model for the creation of other children's gardens worldwide.

Arnold H. Webster, consulting arborist and teacher, was presented the DBG Distinguished Achievement in Education Award. This award encourages excellence, innovation and commitment in botanical, horticultural or environmental education. Webster has taught classes on tree, lawn and perennial care, landscaping, pruning and much more at Hawkeye Community College, Iowa State University and University of Northern Iowa. He has written articles for specialty publications and has instructed numerous seminars, in addition to teaching at formal institutions. His students say he has an ability to encourage a lifelong learning quest.

Helen S. Fritch, founder and board president of the Vail Alpine Garden Foundation, received the DBG Distinguished Achievement in Horticulture Award. This award is bestowed to persons and organizations who respond to horticultural challenges with uncommon leadership, dedication and ingenuity. Fritch was pivotal in creating Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail. Under Fritch's guidance, the Vail Alpine Garden Foundation has been influential in the beautification of Colorado mountain towns, in the diversification of their economies and in teaching residents about high altitude ecosystems and gardening practices.



Ken Faraoni, local artist, designed and donated the bronze Denver Botanic Gardens Medal that was awarded to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Children's Garden Program.



DBG executive director Richard H. Daley, Helen Fritch, Judith Zuk (from Brooklyn Botanic Garden), Arnold Webster and DBG Board president John B. Proffitt.

What to do this winter: Gardening online



'Lavender Mist' sun daisy

Plant Select® profile

'Lavender Mist' sun daisy (*Osteospermum* 'Lavender Mist') was chosen by DBG and C.S.U. as one of six Plant Select® choices for 1998 — plants of superior garden merit for the Rocky Mountain region.

Lavender mist appears to represent hybrids between several species of sun daisy from South Africa's high, cold mountains, but it is slightly taller, with an even more lavish display of flowers. It forms an attractive mat of sweetly aromatic foliage and produces a constant succession of waxy white daisies that quickly age to a soft lavender tone. A mature mat can have flowers that range from pure white through the whole range of lavender tones — creating a romantic and impressionistic effect in the garden.

It will be available for purchase at DBG's annual Plant and Book Sale May 8 and 9, 1998, and at garden centers and nurseries next spring.

If the cold, miserable winter months get you down, and the memory of your sunny, fragrant summer garden begins to fade, here is a quick, fun and easy way to tip toe through the tulips, or lilies, or tulbaghias, without ever leaving your warm and cozy home.

All you need is access to the internet (World Wide Web) and addresses to fascinating sites that will catapult you into the realm of gardening. You can learn cultural and care information on trees, shrubs, perennials, ground covers, vines, bulbs or annuals; discover plant and seed sources; get information on herbicides, pesticides and fertilization; see what's new in garden tools and supplies; learn landscape design techniques; shop on-line; read articles from your favorite garden magazines; view photographs and graphics of flowers and gardens; and tour botanical gardens — all this at the mere click of a mouse. It's enough to make your spiraeas spin.

Extremely valuable resources for plant aficionados can be found in plant related data bases that increasingly are becoming available on the internet. Many public institutions (universities, U.S. Forest Service, botanical gardens) have information-packed data bases covering topics like plant nomenclature and nativity (natural geographic range of a plant), plant descriptions, scanned images of plants, endangered and threatened species and ethnobotanical data.

Several plant societies have their own web sites, too. These sites offer information about the society, relevant plant descriptions and sources, event schedules and links to other related sites on the net.

If viewing a lot of plant images and graphics is a high priority, and your modem speed is less than 28,800 bps (bits per second), downloading images to the screen will be excruciatingly slow, and therefore, very frustrating. You may want to consider upgrading to a faster modem.

Listed below are a few popular, plant related web sites that are easy to use and maneuver through. You also can search for other garden sites or specific topics using a "search engine." There are many out there, such as WebCrawler or Yahoo, so experiment and find one that works best for you.

Beware! Browsing through these sites may be addictive. You'll find yourself spending many hours absorbing informative gardening tidbits and how-to advice. Now dig in and return to summer.

Garden resource and information web sites:

The Virtual Garden

<http://www.pathfinder.com/vg>

Timely information, articles, plant and seed sources, gardening by mail.

Garden Web

<http://www.gardenweb.com>

A tremendous amount of plant information.

The Garden Gate

<http://www.prairienet.org/ag/garden/homepage.htm>

Lots of information, reading room, link to plant societies.

Kinder Garden

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kinder/index.html>

A site for kids—fun with plants, games, projects, information.

Seed, plant and supply catalog web sites:

The Cooks Garden

<http://www.cooksgarden.com>

Fun and easy seed information and produce recipes.

Johnny's Selected Seeds

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com>

General seed information, links to other garden sites.

Fire Girl—It's All About Chile Peppers

<http://www.firegirl.com>

A guide to specialty chile peppers, how to grow, cook and eat them.

Vesey's Seed Co.

<http://www.veseys.com>

General seed information and tips.

Mushrooms abound at national foray

As August rains drenched Colorado's high country, wild mushrooms rained on the North American Mycological Society's (NAMA) annual foray at Copper Mountain in Summit County Aug. 14 to 18. The Colorado Mycological Society (CMS) hosted the Sam Mitchel Memorial Foray in memory of long-time volunteer and founder of DBG's Herbarium of Fungi, Dr. D.H. "Sam" Mitchel. Nearly 400 amateur and professional mycologists from all over the U.S., Canada and Europe met for lectures and workshops on all aspects of mycology and for mushroom collecting into the local national forests.

CMS president Vera Evenson, associate curator of DBG's Herbarium of Fungi, declared the event a huge success, based upon the thousands of mushroom specimens collected during the foray. Study and identification by the expert faculty revealed more than 350 different species of fungi, approximately 10 percent of which were new records for Colorado. A voucher specimen of each fungus species recorded at the foray is now housed in the fungus collection at the Field Museum in Chicago as part of NAMA's permanent record of fungi of North America.

Visitors constantly expressed surprise that "dry" Colorado has so much variety in its mycoflora. Evenson gives much credit to the plentiful moisture in the area and to the great variety of Rocky Mountain ecosystems available to the collectors.



Blossoms of Light

Denver Botanic Gardens **Blossoms of Light**
Dec. 6 through Jan. 4, 6 to 9 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens becomes a winter wonderland during its annual "Blossoms of Light" holiday celebration Dec. 6 through Jan. 4. The festival has become a Colorado favorite, offering families a wholesome, entertaining holiday activity.

Outside, the Gardens will be ablaze with thousands of twinkling lights outlining the many dynamically-shaped trees and shrubs. More than 180,000 individual lights will sparkle, in addition to the many animated light displays — colorful morning glories that bloom with the rising sun, butterflies that flutter above flowers, dragonflies that swoop in mid-air, frogs that leap among lily pads and a colorful school of fish.

Warm up inside the lobby court, where an impressive display of more than 1,000 poinsettia plants will complement a dramatic gingerbread topiary and a beautiful rosemary tree. Nightly entertainment — carolers, bell ringers, dancers and other musical groups — will excite your senses with the movement, sounds and colors of the holidays.

Each evening families can participate in a free "Nature's Workshop" craft project, and seasonal refreshments — hot chocolate, cider, brownies and churros (a sweet-Mexican pastry) — will be for sale. The gift shop, stocked with holiday cards, ornaments, holiday gift plants and unique gardening gifts, will be open each night.

Admission

Adults \$5

Adult members \$3

Seniors (65 & older) and youth 6-15 \$3

Senior and youth members \$1

Children 5 and younger FREE

Each time you visit "Blossoms" you will receive a ticket for a \$2 per person discount at Denver Zoo's evening "Wildlights."



Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York Street

303-370-8187 TDD 370-8032



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COMPANY
OF COLORADO
A NEW CENTURY ENERGIES COMPANY



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Holiday Concerts

Fill your holiday season with music! This sixth year of Holiday Concerts brings classic Gardens favorites together with a flash of something new.

Wind Machine, Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 10 and 11

A holiday tradition at the Gardens, this acoustic quintet will play festive favorites — with a jazzy pizzazz!

Lannie Garrett, Tuesday, Dec. 16

Lannie and her Big Band return with a night of nostalgic songs from the '30s and '40s.

The Denver Brass, Thursday, Dec. 18

Denver's finest brass performers play a lively repertoire of holiday classics.

10th annual Teddy Bear Teas

Children ages 3 to 10 are invited to bring their favorite Teddy bear or doll, along with a fun-loving adult or two, to these modified high teas.

Saturday, Dec. 6, puppet show with Puppet Masters

Saturday, Dec. 13, spell-binding tales by Eric West

Sunday, Dec. 14, puppet show with Puppet Masters

Registration Form

Mail in your order today, or come to Denver Botanic Gardens' box office, 1005 York St., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Nov. 17. (Ticket box office will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27.)

To qualify for a reduced price for concerts, you must be a current DBG member at the Arbor Circle level or above, and you must use the exact name(s) when ordering tickets. If you are not currently a member, call the Gardens for full membership details, 370-8029.

For Teddy Bear Teas, please indicate your first and second choices of time and date by using the numbers 1 and 2 in the boxes. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all mail orders, and your tickets will be mailed to you. Member discounts do not apply to Teddy Bear Teas.

1997 Denver Botanic Gardens Mail Order Form

To qualify for a reduced ticket price you must be a current DBG member at the Arbor Circle level or above and you must use the exact name(s) on your card when ordering tickets. DBG Membership No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Concert	Date	# of Tickets		Member Price	Nonmember Price	Total
Wind Machine	Wednesday, Dec. 10		x	\$10	\$12	
Wind Machine	Thursday, Dec. 11		x	\$10	\$12	
Lannie Garret	Tuesday, Dec. 16		x	\$10	\$12	
The Denver Brass	Thursday, Dec. 18		x	\$8	\$10	
Tea	Date	# Adult/Child		Adult Price	Child Price	Total
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Grand Total					\$	

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Phone

☐ Check or money order enclosed (payable to Denver Botanic Gardens)

☐ Please charge my tickets to: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard (add \$1 handling fee per ticket for credit card orders)

Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature



Banana yucca provides good winter interest

A recent trip to Flagstaff, Ariz., has caused me to reconsider the banana yuccas (*Yucca baccata*) in my front yard. On a hike in Oak Creek Canyon, I barely recognized the yucca. The leaves were elongated and twisted, and some of the plants had stems that raised the yucca off the ground. I thought I was seeing an entirely new species of yucca, but as we turned to the south-facing slope of the canyon, the yucca took on its more familiar form, with its rigid pattern of leaves. Finding it in fruit was a sure bet that it was, indeed, the banana yucca. Although not native to the Denver region, the plant is still found in the wild in Las Animas county. It is a relatively common ornamental plant in the Front Range and gives a distinct southwestern look to any landscape.

Yucca baccata is a wide-ranging species, growing from California to Colorado, south to Texas, Arizona and northern Mexico. It is variable in form, with stems or without, but its benefit throughout southwestern history has been its fruit and fiber. San Felipe, Zuñi, Cochiti and Navaho Indians all had various methods for preparing the fruits — raw, cooked or fermented. The leaves were pounded to remove the pulp, and the fibers were used for every imaginable need. Rabbit fur incorporated into yucca fibers and woven into blankets were found at excava-

tions at Bandelier National Monument. The roots contain saponins that were used as soaps by southwestern indigenous peoples. Shampoo made from the roots makes hair shiny and is prized for ceremonial purposes.

Knowing how highly prized the plant is by southwesterners, seeing its variable forms in the coniferous forest south of Flagstaff and realizing it's one of the few plants I will be able to see in my garden in the snow, makes me appreciate the banana yucca all the more — and makes me want to grow it in the shade so I, too, can have all the fantastic shapes in my yard that I saw in Oak Creek Canyon!

Susan Eubank
Senior Librarian

For more information about banana yucca, look at these in Helen K. Fowler Library:

Dunmire, William W. and Gail D. Tierney. *Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province*. Santa Fe, N.M.: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1995. QK 99 .A1 D84 1995.

Ebeling, Walter. *Handbook of Indian Foods and Fibers of Arid America*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1986. E 78 W5 E3 1986.

McKelvey, Susan Delano. *Yuccas of the Southwestern United States*. Part 1. Jamaica Plain, Mass.: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, 1938. QK 495 A26 M35.

Weber, William A. and Ronald C. Wittman. *Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope*. Rev. ed. Niwot, Colo.: University Press of Colorado, 1996. QK 150 .W4Co2 1996.

Tomocik honored

Denver Botanic Gardens' aquatic horticulturist Joseph V. Tomocik was inducted into the International Water Lily Society (IWLS) Hall of Fame at the IWLS symposium held in Denver in August.

The honor recognizes Tomocik's extraordinary contributions to water gardening on an international basis, which have greatly furthered the IWLS's purpose of promoting understanding and enjoyment of water gardening. Some previous inductees into the hall of fame include well-known water lily hybridizers G.H. Pring, Joseph Bory-Latour Marliac, Perry D. Slocum and Kirk Strawn. Two other Colorado Water Garden Society members, Mary and John Mirgon, also have been inducted.

The prestigious award is presented to one or two people each year. An original water lily painting accompanied the award.

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. I have been told that my American elm tree has Dutch elm disease and must be removed. Is there anything I can do to save it?

A. Although some arborists have claimed to reverse the disease with chemical injections at the earliest symptoms, there still is no reliable cure for Dutch elm disease (DED). For more than 65 years, the rampage of DED has been unparalleled in its devastation to the character of neighborhoods and even entire towns across the temperate regions of this county. Shady neighborhoods and canopied parkways became barren almost overnight as block after block, planted with one popular species, became infected and died. Unfortunately, there is still no cure for DED. The disease is in reality a fungus that clogs the water conducting tissues of infected trees, causing them to wilt to death. The fungus is said to have been introduced into this country on furniture wood imported in the early part of this century. It affects many species of elm, although some of the Asian species show resistance. The DED fungus is transferred from tree to tree by a small insect known as the lesser European elm bark beetle. These beetles tunnel and breed under elm bark where they pick up the fungus and spread it to other trees. The insects are particularly attracted to trees with dead limbs and branches. Efforts to control DED have centered on eliminating this elm bark beetle. It is also important to maintain elm trees in a healthy manner; prune out broken or dead limbs that might provide attractive breeding sites for the beetles. Once a DED case is diagnosed, the tree should be removed as soon as possible to avoid infecting other elm trees. The wood must be taken to a landfill, unless the bark has been removed, or it will continue to serve as a breeding site for disease carrying beetles. Nearby elms also are susceptible to infection through root grafts, which frequently occur between trees of the same species planted in proximity to one another. Planting disease resistant hybrids appears the most promising means of preserving elms in future landscapes.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call 370-8068.

Make a

perennial difference...

Support Denver Botanic Gardens'

Annual Fund today

Just as a perennial plant lives many years, your donation to DBG's Annual Fund is vital to future years of life for Denver Botanic Gardens. Membership dues and restricted gifts simply cannot cover expenses needed to offer exemplary programs and exhibits. Help DBG promote the purposeful role of plants in the lives of our children...and their children...and theirs.

Please consider a gift of \$50, \$100 or \$200 — whatever is comfortable for you!

Complete this form and mail it today.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful, tax-deductible gift.

Name

Address

City

Zip

Phone

Today's date

Visa/MasterCard #

Exp. date

Amount of gift \$

For more information on the Annual Fund, call 370-8030. For information on planned giving, call 370-8027.

From your membership office

'Herald' in the holidays

Members, you can preview this year's "Blossoms of Light" display at your own special party, DBG's traditional "Herald the Season," Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 3 and 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The members-only evenings include desserts and hot cider, a visit from Santa, music, balloon sculpting and face painting — in addition to a first stroll through the magical outdoor light displays. Families can participate in two make-it-and-take-it craft activities. Cost is \$5 per person; children 2 years and younger get in free. Look for your invitation in the mail, or call 370-8187 after Nov. 10 to make your telephone reservation. Volunteer opportunities are plentiful for this event! Please call 370-8049 to get involved.

Blossoms bargain

As a member, you can come to "Blossoms of Light" free one evening from Dec. 6 to Jan. 4. Be sure to clip the coupon from next month's *Green Thumb News* that will allow in two adults and two children. Also, each time you visit "Blossoms of Light" you will receive a ticket for a \$2 per person discount at Denver Zoo's evening "Wildlights."

Healing plants display closes

The Healing Power of Plants exhibit that has resided in the Lobby Court since Sept. 13 will leave the Gardens Nov. 11 — this is your last chance to see this fascinating display before it is gone. You can learn about plants' healing properties, listen to pre-recorded testimonies about their many uses and see live plants that are used in modern and traditional medicines today.

'Tree-mendous' trees for pre-order now

Families should mark their calendars for Saturday, Dec. 6, — a day of old-fashioned country fun at Chatfield Arboretum's second annual "Tree-mendous Kick-off" to Blossoms of Light from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas trees, wreaths and festive decorations will be for sale — but members should order now for best prices and selection. After picking up their tree or wreath, families can enjoy craft activities, festive refreshments and a visit with Santa. Handmade beeswax candles, straw-and-wheat ornaments, honey and more will be for sale in an old-fashioned holiday marketplace.

Two kinds of trees — noble fir and Douglas fir — will be for sale in an assortment of sizes. The wreaths are decorated with a weatherproof velvet bow and pine cones, surrounded by fragrant cedar boughs. They are Colorado-made by Piedmont Farms in Wellington. Pre-ordering your tree or wreath will ensure you receive the perfect size and shape for your house.

Members can take advantage of early-bird discount prices by ordering trees and wreaths before the end of the month — all orders must be postmarked by Wednesday, Nov. 26. Mail or FAX the order form below, then pick up your "Tree-mendous" tree at the Arboretum Dec. 6 and enjoy the festivities of the day.



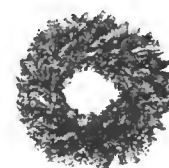
Noble Fir

4' \$38
5' \$49
6' \$55
7' \$64



Douglas Fir

3' \$20
4' \$24
5' \$28
6' \$32



Decorated Wreath

18-20" . . \$22
24-28" . . \$28

Early Bird Order Form

Enclosed is \$_____ for the following:

Tree Type	Quantity	Size	Price
Wreath size	Quantity		Price

Name

Address

City

Zip

Day Phone

Evening Phone

Member of Denver Botanic Gardens? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Member ID #

(on top line of address label on this GTN)

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MC

#

Exp.

Signature

Mail this order to Chatfield Arboretum, 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton, CO 80123. Or FAX credit card order to 303-973-1979. To be eligible for the discount this order must be postmarked by Nov. 26. Make checks payable to Chatfield Arboretum. For more information, call the Arboretum, 303-973-3705.

DBG's gate to the world

Do you want to sea kayak with whales, hike through rainforests, or explore ancient ruins, world renown gardens and nature preserves? If so, you may want to join one of DBG's 1998 tours.

Next year, in addition to the Premier Tours that have been extremely successful, DBG will be offering a new series of Adventure Trips designed for active travelers. While both types of tours focus on the flora, fauna, historical and cultural aspects of an area, the Adventure Trips will make some of these discoveries from horseback, raft, canoe or kayak, or while hiking, biking or snorkeling. Generally, you do not need experience in any of these activities, but you do need to be healthy and active, and have a sense of adventure!

The Premier Tours are more botanically oriented and include an expert chosen by DBG to lead the trip, tours of renown and private gardens and other exclusive arrangements not found on other tours. Destinations for the 1998 Premier Tours include Arizona in April, Steamboat Wildflower Weekend in July, Maine in August and Indonesia in September.

Destinations for the 1998 Adventure Trips are Baja, Mexico in March, San Juan Islands in Washington in July and Grand Canyon in October. Also, a variety of Family Weekend outings will be planned next summer, including trips to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arkansas River.

Highlights for the upcoming Arizona trip April 1 to 5 include visits to the Desert Botanical Gardens, Heard Museum, Saguaro National Monument, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Biosphere II and the Mission San Xavier del Bac. Several private gardens and nature conservancy areas also will be toured. The trip will be led by DBG executive director Richard H. Daley.

Space is limited, so early registration is advised. For detailed itineraries or more information, call Pam Rathke, 370-8051.

Tributes

In memory of "Aunt Margie"

Carolyn E. Kaemmerer

In memory of Dorothy Ann Fullerton

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Phil Hayward

Eileen and Max Price

In memory of Les Moore

Ms. Mary J. Moore

In memory of Frank L. Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Martha Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Mary Hart Smith

Douglas and Pauline Crombie

Chapter CB-P.E.O. Sisterhood

In memory of Mrs. Annie Velarde

Mr. and Mrs. George Y. Masunaga

In honor of Beatrice Taplin

Anonymous

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

Gift memberships – a growing gift

A Denver Botanic Gardens membership is the perfect gift for that person on your list who has everything. It's a gift that can be used again and again, and it's guaranteed to last a whole year! When you purchase a *new* gift membership, a \$5 certificate for purchases at DBG's newly expanded Gift Shop will be sent along with the gift announcement.

Give a DBG Membership!



General Benefits for All Members

- ✿ Free admission to York Street and Chatfield facilities
- ✿ Publications including newsletters and class listings
- ✿ Discounts on classes, in Gift Shop, at Plant & Book Sale
- ✿ Free events and special invitations
- ✿ Free guest passes (according to level of membership)

- ☐ The Landscaper – \$35 – Admits member and one guest each visit.
- ☐ The Arbor Circle – \$50 – Two member cards, each card admits three; summer concert discounts.
- ☐ The Botanist Club – \$120 – Same benefits as Arbor Circle PLUS 2 free summer concert tickets and merchant discounts of 10-20%.
- ☐ The Gardener – \$25 – Admits one (seniors, age 65, may ask for one extra guest pass each visit)

Please send a gift membership to:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

WorkPhone _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Sign gift card _____

Gift card ☐ taken, or mail ☐ to recipient ☐ to me, by (date) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Charge membership to ☐ VISA ☐ MC

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Recipients receive a card informing them of your gift plus a free plant that may be picked up at the Gardens.

Please return this form with payment to:

Denver Botanic Gardens Membership Office

Dept. 153

Denver, CO 80271-0153

Questions or to order by phone call 370-8029

November

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
^{23/30} 24	25	26	27	28	29	

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Don't miss the "Blossoms of Light" insert
in this month's *Green Thumb News*.
It contains important ticket information
for upcoming Holiday Concerts and
Teddy Bear Teas!



Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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Address correction requested

November

- 1 Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Society meeting
- 4 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 5 Tempel Lecture: Mushrooms in Medicine
- 6 *Landscape Design Theory*
- 7 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 New Frontier: Western Gardening Approaches Lecture
Cutting Edge Floral Art
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 11 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 12 *A Holiday Birch Wreath*
Medicinal Plants of Shakespeare
Medicine Wheel of Healing III
- 14,15 Holiday Sale
- 15 *Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tours*
Herbal Gifts
Rocky Mountain African Violet Council meeting
High Country Judges workshop
- 16 Rocky Mountain Branch of American Begonia Society meeting
Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 18 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 19 Herb Society of America meeting
- 20 *Beeswax Candle Making at Chatfield Arboretum*
Floral Arranging II
Ikebana International meeting
African Violet Society of Denver meeting
- 24 Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 29 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop

December

- 2 *Drawing Plants with Colored Pencils*
- 3,4 Herald the Season — for members only!
- 4 Gardeners of America meeting
- 5 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 6 Teddy Bear Teas
Tree-mendous Kick-off at Chatfield Arboretum
Blossoms of Light Opening Ceremony
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Society holiday party
Colorado Water Garden Society holiday party
- 6-1/4 Blossoms of Light Holiday Festival
- 13 Teddy Bear Teas
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 14 Teddy Bear Teas
- 17 Herb Society of America meeting
- 18 African Violet Society of Denver meeting

Note: Classes are in *italics*.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

December 1997



Thousands of lights blossom at the Gardens

On your mark...get set...celebrate! "Blossoms of Light," the month-long holiday light display, will open Saturday, Dec. 6, at 5:15 p.m. A special opening ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Cherry Creek Dance will perform in John C. Mitchell II Hall starting at 6 p.m. To set the stage, Metro on the Mall choir will sing before and after the opening ceremony. This opening night ceremony will kick off a month of festive celebrating, continuing through Jan. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. each night.

An exciting addition to this year's celebration will be a 16-foot fir tree decorated by the Garden Club of Denver staged just outside the education building. The ornaments were made from dried plant materials gathered at DBG, including dried grasses, seed pods and sunflowers — and all of the ornaments on the tree are edible to birds. Inside the lobby court, a display will teach visitors how trees are used in celebrations throughout the world.

Outside, the Gardens will be ablaze with thousands of twinkling lights. The ever popular jumping frog and fish swimming upstream will return, and watch for the sun "rising and setting" behind 6-foot tall morning glories. You'll find a special surprise display in the "New Horizons Garden" (formerly the turf trial area).

Although the tropical conservatory will remain closed for renovation, inside the lobby court will be a colorful display of more than 1,000 poinsettia plants. Also featured in the lobby will be a dramatic gingerbread topiary, gingerbread houses made by local culinary students from the Colorado Institute of Art and Emily Griffith culinary departments, a beautiful 15-foot "tree" made of hundreds of rosemary plants and an impressive display of old-time toys.

In John C. Mitchell II Hall, nightly entertainment will excite your senses with the movement, sounds and colors of the holidays. Carolers, bell ringers, dancers and a variety of musical groups will perform nightly.

Each evening families can participate in a free "Nature's Workshop" craft project, and seasonal refreshments — hot chocolate, cider, brownies and churros — will be for sale. DBG's gift shop, stocked with holiday cards, ornaments and unique gardening gifts, will be open each night.

DBG will be teaming up with 7NEWS to promote its children's car seat program, "Seats for Kids." 7NEWS wants to ensure every family can provide their children with car seats for safety. Throughout the month visitors can give cash contributions toward the purchase of "loaner" car seats for families with infants who don't have them. (Please note: due to liability issues, 7NEWS cannot accept any new or used car seats.) People who contribute to "Seats for Kids" will be given a coupon for a free beverage at DBG's concession stand.

"Blossoms of Light" is sponsored by 7NEWS, Public Service Company of Colorado, Foley's, SecureHorizons and Robinson Dairy. Activities are from 6 to 9 each night. Admission to "Blossoms of Light" for DBG members is \$3 for adults and \$1 for seniors 65 and older and youth 6 to 15. Nonmember cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and youth. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. As a member, you also can visit "Blossoms" free of charge one night of your choice. Be sure to clip your one-time free admission coupon on page 11. Each time you visit "Blossoms of Light" you also will receive a ticket for a \$2 per person discount at Denver Zoo's evening "Wildlights."

"Blossoms of Light" will reopen Jan. 11 to 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. with outdoor lights only (no entertainment, craft projects or indoor displays) so stock show participants can enjoy the evening lights.

For more information call 370-8187.



Green Thumb News December 1997

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for Feb. issue: Dec. 19

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	331-4009
<i>9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8003
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8055
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Correction

The "Blossoms of Light" insert in November's *Green Thumb News* listed a Teddy Bear Tea date, Saturday, Dec. 14, in error. The correct date is Sunday, Dec. 14. Teddy Bear Teas are scheduled for Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14.

From the executive director

After many, many agonizing months of working through cost reductions and re-engineering, the Boettcher Conservatory renovation is now underway!

Many months ago, we began removing the plants in anticipation of remodeling, but the construction bids came in far too high to proceed. In an effort to keep the project in-line with the budget, the mechanical and humidification systems had to be completely re-engineered. It was no easy task to cut costs without reducing the quality of environment that is needed to grow tropical plants.

The process of finding and hiring new engineers and restudying every aspect of the project took more than six months, but was successful! Although the construction has been delayed, therefore postponing the reopening of the Conservatory until late 1998 or early 1999, the end result will be a renovated Conservatory that meets the needs we have for excellent growing conditions, access for wheelchairs and strollers, new interpretation as well as both new and old plants.

Special thanks go to Richard Bieling, DBG's director of operations; Paul Bakken, our construction manager; J.J. Blanke engineers; and especially to Alvarado Construction for its patience and assistance.

*Richard H. Daley
Executive Director*

Poster contest entries due in January

Deadline to submit entries for the Plant and Book Sale Poster Contest is Jan. 5, 1998.

The winning artist will receive \$1,000 and 200 copies of the poster. The winning work will be auctioned for the benefit of the Gardens during the Plant and Book Sale May 8 and 9, 1998. The contest is open to all Colorado residents.

Entries must be the following media: oil, acrylic, egg tempera, watercolor, pastel or colored pencil. They must have a botanical or horticultural subject and be 30 inches by 30 inches or smaller. Entries must be submitted in slide form. Each artist may submit up to three entries. There is a \$5 per slide entry fee.

Complete rules and entry forms are available in DBG's lobby court, or call 370-8091.



IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

With the snow falling more regular this time of year, most of the construction activity is in the tropical conservatory. Six cement light structures that were located throughout the conservatory (identical to the ones that are outside the education building and along the walk just south of the conservatory) are being moved to the newly expanded parking lot. Here, they will add additional illumination, while complimenting the signature architecture inside the DBG front gate, thus tying together the overall design on both sides of York Street. Initial construction has begun in the conservatory. Be sure to check out the progress photos in the lobby court, now that the project is back on-track. (See executive director's column on this page.)

Special holiday treat for kids, Teddy bears

This year marks the 10th year for the ever-popular Teddy Bear Teas. These dress-up parties, based on modified British high teas, offer delightful kids food, flavored teas, desserts and entertainment for children 3 to 10 years old. Children are encouraged to bring their favorite Teddy bear or doll and a party-loving adult or two.

Expanded dates this year include Saturdays, Dec. 6 (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) and Dec. 13 (11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 14 (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. There may still be tickets available, and reservations are required. Stop by the DBG front gate box office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 370-8187.

Teacher assistants receive free class

DBG is looking for enthusiastic, hard-working people to assist the education department teachers. If you enjoy taking gardening class, know how to use a slide projector or Xerox machine and are willing to help a teacher, you can be trained to assist in classes. In return, you can enjoy the class free of charge. A mandatory training session will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (includes lunch) in John C. Mitchell II Hall. If you are interested, please call the registration office, 370-8020.

DBG closed Christmas, New Year's days

Please note that Denver Botanic Gardens will be closed Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. so staff can enjoy the holidays with their friends and families. However, the Gardens will reopen for "Blossoms of Light" both evenings from 6 to 9 p.m.

Summer horticulture internships available

Interested students studying horticulture are invited to apply for Denver Botanic Gardens' 1998 Summer Internship Program in Applied Horticulture. This 10-week internship is from June 8 to Aug. 14 and offers students the opportunity to work alongside the Gardens' professional gardening staff, learning the daily operations of a public display garden. Field trips, special projects and lectures round out the program.

Work experience includes planting, watering, pruning and weeding on the outside grounds; seeding, transplanting and propagation in the greenhouses; assisting with the tropical and subtropical plant displays; and attending a weekly lecture and field trip.

Applicants must be enrolled in current college programs (including graduate programs), and preference will be given to residents of/or students in the states of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The program welcomes both traditional and nontraditional students, including those that are making career changes to the field of horticulture.

To qualify for the 1998 Summer Internship Program in Applied Horticulture applicants must have completed their sophomore year of college with a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and must be enrolled as either an undergraduate or a graduate student. Several introductory courses in botany and horticulture are prerequisites.

Applicants are sought for two Alice Mann Owen Internships in Applied Horticulture, two Beatrice B. Taplin Internships in Applied Horticulture, a Clara Van Schaak Phipps Internship in Applied Horticulture and a Donald L. McIntosh Internship. All completed application materials are due Feb. 17, 1998. For more information or an application packet, please call DBG adult education specialist Paula Ogilvie, 370-8041.

Give knowledge this holiday season

This winter and spring Denver Botanic Gardens is offering classes in horticulture, botany, natural history, horticultural therapy, floral arts and cooking. Gift certificates for classes are perfect gifts for those hard-to-buy-for gardeners or plant-lovers on your shopping list.

Gardening in Colorado is challenging as well as rewarding. The challenges of high light, alkaline soils, low humidity, low precipitation, temperature swings and weather catastrophes, such as hail, are offset by vivid colors, few diseases and numerous days suitable for working in the garden. Techniques used in other areas of the country — or even the state — need to be reinterpreted for Front Range gardening. Classes offered by DBG concentrate on gardening in this region and are taught by local experts: Gardens staff, green industry professionals and regional professionals in horticulture.

For more information on DBG's classes or to order a gift certificate, call 370-8020 or 370-8019.

Celebrate the holiday season with music

Again this year Denver Botanic Gardens will host four dynamic concerts as part of its "Blossoms of Light" celebration. The ever-popular acoustical Wind Machine will perform Dec. 10 and 11, and Lannie Garrett will join the festivities Dec. 16 with her special brand of holiday big band magic. The Denver Brass will conclude the Blossoms of Light concert season with a powerful burst of holiday cheer Dec. 18.

All performances will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall, and concert-goers are encouraged to come early and enjoy the beautiful light displays before the show. (Please note that Mitchell Hall will not be open for public viewing on concert evenings.)

Tickets for Wind Machine and Lannie Garrett are \$10 for members at the Arbor Circle-level and above and \$12 for other level members and nonmembers. The Denver Brass tickets are \$8 for members at the Arbor Circle-level and above and \$10 for other level members and nonmembers. Tickets are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at DBG's front gate box office, or call 370-8187.

Employee of the month

Ann Berthe, DBG plant recorder, was selected by her co-workers as September's employee of the month. Ann is recognized for her initiative, enthusiasm and commitment to the Gardens. She goes the extra mile to see that tasks are completed, always maintaining a cheerful and helpful attitude. In addition to her regular responsibilities, Ann voluntarily helps out in the greenhouses whenever she has time. Congratulations, Ann.

Hollies for Colorado gardens



Holly, one of the favorite plants of the season, is seldom seen in regional gardens. This is primarily because most species prefer temperate climates where the lowest winter temperatures are a bit higher than ours. Additionally, Colorado's intense sunlight and frequent warm, windy winter days are the nemesis of many broad-leaved evergreen shrubs in the area.

That is not to say that all hollies are evergreen. The genus is large and contains more than 400 species. Among that number are deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, climbers and even some epiphytes. Still, it is the traditional, spiny-leaved, evergreen type that most people envision when the plant's name is mentioned. Many of these are cultivars or hybrids of *Ilex aquifolium*, known as common or English holly. The colorful red berries associated with holly are produced only by female plants, but male holly shrubs must be nearby to pollinate the flowers that produce them.

There is a group of hybrid hollies of the traditional type that will survive in our area in suitably sheltered sites. They are known as hardy blue hol-

lies (*I. x meserveae* cvs.) and are sold under such cultivar names as 'Blue Boy', 'Blue Girl', 'Blue Prince' and 'Blue Princess'. They are hybrids between the cold-hardy prostrate holly (*I. rugosa*) and English holly. These shrubs grow to 3 or 4 feet locally and survive best in shady, moist locations such as may be found on the north or east sides of buildings.

An attractive deciduous holly will grow here, too. The shrub is known as winterberry (*I. verticillata*) and is native to eastern North America. The plant eventually grows to about 6 feet and is most attractive after its unremarkable foliage falls in autumn to reveal the bright red berries that persist on its branches through much of the dormant season. It is a gem for the winter landscape. The cultivar 'Winter Red' is known for its particularly heavy fruiting.

There are also some alternatives to true holly that are easier to grow in our climate. The holly grapes, members of the genus *Mahonia*, have evergreen foliage similar to holly but produce clusters of purple-black fruit. Oregon grape (*M. aquifolium*) can grow to 6 feet and has glossy, dark green leaves. Creeping holly grape (*M. repens*) has a duller leaf and usually grows about 2 feet tall. The latter species is native to northwestern North America, including the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

An offbeat holly impersonator for xeric gardens is *Quercus turbinella*, a broad-leaved evergreen shrub with very spiny holly-like foliage. It is really a shrubby oak whose holiday usefulness may be limited since it produces small acorns rather than red berries.

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. I'd like to trim some branches from the evergreens in my yard to use for holiday decoration indoors. Any advice?

A. Using branches and greenery from your own yard is the best way to ensure that your holiday decor is fresh and long-lasting. Keep in mind that in addition to needle and broad-leaved evergreens, nearly any berry, fruit, pod, cone or seed may be useful, and that the bare branches of some deciduous plants are ornamental, too. Frequently overlooked ornamental fruit and seed capsules include those of yucca, lilac, sycamore, golden rain tree and alder. If a quick survey of your yard leads you to think that your evergreens are too dull or off-color to be attractive indoors, try them anyway. A day or two in a warm room often will restore the rich coloration that cold weather has muted. It's a good idea to thoroughly rinse the plant material you gather with a brisk spray of water. Prune twigs and branches from coniferous evergreens judiciously. Pine, fir and spruce grow and fill gaps comparatively slower than juniper, yew and arborvitae. Look for smaller branches and prune from the back sides of plants, when possible. Trim off those limbs and twigs that good pruning practice would dictate should be removed anyway, such as those that cross each other or those that detract from the overall shape of the plant.

"Dr. Green" will answer your plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call 370-8068.



Holly plants (*Ilex* spp.) around the world have had ritualistic and ceremonial purposes in many cultures. In South America maté (*Ilex paraguariensis*) has been used since pre-Columbian times. The Andean Indians believed that the maté plant was originally a young maiden that was turned into a shrub. The spirit must be honored and esteemed because it protects respectful persons, but will punish anyone who exploits it.

During Roman times during the winter celebration Saturnalia, holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) was given to friends to ward off lightning and evil spells. In early Christian times holly was forbidden, but since these rules were largely ignored, Christian lore incorporated holly into its rituals. In Germany, holly was thought to have grown in the footsteps of Christ. The sharp leaves represented the crown of thorns and the red berries symbolized the blood spilled on the cross. In Great Britain, the Druids felt holly was a favorite of the sun, because of its evergreen color. This belief was transformed into Christmas legends when the British brought holly into their homes during the Christmas celebration as a hiding place for Christmas elves and fairies.

Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, Alabama, Cherokee, Natchez and Karankawa indigenous peoples of the Southeastern United States also used holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) in sacred rituals. A black drink was made after roasting the leaves and then adding them to water. It was ingested to cleanse the system for ceremonial purity. At the Green Corn Festival the Seminole Indians also use the black drink as part of their ceremony.

When you bring holly into your home this holiday season, think of it as a plant of many world cultures, and celebrate them all!

Resources on the lore of holly used for this article are available in the Helen Fowler Library of Denver Botanic Gardens:

Borland, Hal. *Plants of Christmas*. Rev. ed. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1987. GT 4988 B6 1987.

Martin, Laura C. *The Folklore of Trees & Shrubs*. Chester, Conn.: Globe Pequot Press, 1992. GR 785 .M3 1992.

Porteous, Alexander. *Forest Folklore: Mythology and Romance*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1928. GR 785 P6 1968.

Rätsch, Christian. *The Dictionary of Sacred and Magical Plants*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 1992. GR 780 .R38 1992.

Christmas tree care

It is likely that anyone who is asked could describe the size, shape, needle length and color of their version of the perfect Christmas tree. Preferences and species availability vary regionally; no one species can be considered best. Desirable tree characteristics include a full, symmetrical shape with limbs strong enough to support lights and ornaments. Non-prickly needles with a healthy green color and pleasant fragrance are important, too.

Several steps should be followed in order to keep your Christmas tree fresh for the longest possible time after purchase. First, make a new cut at the end of the trunk about an inch above the old one. Keep this end standing in water, whether you decorate the tree immediately or store it to decorate later. If the tree is to be stored, keep it in a cool, shaded place.

Check the tree's water level frequently, and refill as necessary. Fresh evergreen trees can take up an amazing amount of water — up to a gallon during their first 24 hours off the tree lot. Since many tree stands have rather small reservoirs, twice daily filling often is required.

The tree will last longer indoors if it is located away from direct sun, radiators or heat vents, fireplaces, television sets and other sources of heat. Take care to place the tree so that it will not block an exit from the room. Be sure that electric light cords are not frayed or worn, and keep metallic ornaments and tinsel away from bulb sockets. Avoid combustible decorations, and check that electrical circuits are not overloaded.

A fresh tree that receives good care should remain in safe condition indoors for 10 days to two weeks. After the holiday season, recycle your tree by laying its cut boughs on your garden to moderate soil temperatures and help conserve moisture, or see that it gets to a facility where the entire tree can be chipped into mulch.

Garden design symposium planned in February

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes back *Horticulture* magazine as it brings to the Gardens five of the nation's top gardening experts in "The Art of Color: Gardening with the Full Spectrum" Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 2 and 3, in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

On Monday, DBG will host a regional workshop on design, plants and garden style with local designers. Watch next month's newsletter for more information. At Tuesday's *Horticulture* magazine program, Fergus Garrett will talk about using tropical tones for temperate gardens; Rob Proctor will showcase classic and contemporary color schemes for the perennial border; Gary Ratway will show how to frame color as seen from the designer's eye; Tom Peace will explain the use of "hot" colors in a garden; and Angela Overy will teach how to color with foliage plants. The symposium is for amateur gardeners, landscape designers and nursery and garden center professionals.

Members will receive a special mailing and registration form with complete information, or call the registration office, 370-8020.

Public Service Company blossoms

Public Service Company of Colorado has graciously granted Denver Botanic Gardens \$15,000 in support of "Blossoms of Light" once again this year. For more than 20 years, Public Service Company (PSCo) has been a dependable sponsor of the Gardens, contributing to Blossoms of Light and the BirdHaus Bash, as well as enrolling as a corporate member. PSCo also has matched many other gifts given to DBG, resulting in significant overall donations. The Gardens is thankful to have corporations such as Public Service Company in our family of members and sponsors.



"Who's Watching Who," a bronze sculpture that recently was donated to the Gardens by Charles C. Gates, depicts three children sitting on a stump looking back at a curious squirrel. Loveland artist Jane DeDecker created this sculpture — and others like it — that captures childhood innocence and everyday life. The sculpture currently is located at the south end of the storybook garden.

Incredibly edible weekends return in '98

You can discover tasty treats and exotic plants in an incredibly popular series of programs offered at Denver Botanic Gardens throughout the winter months called "The Incredible Edibles."

The series begins with a taste of the tropics, "Chocolate, Coffee and Breads," Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Get in the mood for Valentine's Day by learning all about chocolate, along with a variety of coffees, teas and breads. Discover from which plants all these delicious favorites come, sample them for free, then purchase some to take home, if you like.

The series continues March 7 and 8 with "Luscious Legumes," a look at a group of plants that includes peas and beans. April 4 and 5 is a "Spring Fling," where you can learn about the flowers and foods in the sunflower family.

These popular programs offer an opportunity for you to learn more about the wonderful world of plants — and try some exotic foods. All programs are free to members; nonmembers pay only the gate admission fee. Each program features a unique make-it and take-it activity for children. For more information call 370-8041.

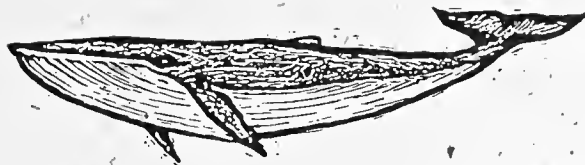


Denver Botanic Gardens

1998 Travel Program

Baja Exploration

La Paz, Espíritu Santo Island & Magdalena Bay
February 21-28



La Paz, located on the beautiful Sea of Cortez, will be home for this week-long exploration of Baja, Mexico. While many of our days are spent on or near the water, we also will learn about Baja's culture, history, flora and fauna via canyon hikes and tours of quaint villages. No Baja trip would be complete without a special trip to Espíritu Santo Island, where we will snorkel, swim with sea lion pups, hike canyons and enjoy the great beaches. A special excursion to the Pacific Coast to whale watch is planned. There will be time to enjoy other activities such as scuba diving, hiking, deep sea fishing or exploring the town of La Paz.

Highlights:

- Kayak and wildlife watch in the Magote mangroves
- Hike or bike the incredible coastline to secluded beaches for snorkeling and a picnic
- Journey through the canyons of the Sierra de la Laguna foothills to unique waterfalls
- Snorkel with sea lion pups
- Explore the beaches and canyons of Espíritu Santo Island
- Visit the historical towns of El Triunfo and Todo Santos
- Whale watch at Magdalena Bay

The price is \$995 and includes guest house lodging, most meals, land and water transportation, activities, equipment rental, voluntary tax-deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens and guiding services. A \$300 deposit is required. The balance is due January 15.



Destination: Desert

Sagueros, Museums & Missions
April 1-5

Join Denver Botanic Gardens Executive Director Rick Daley and other Gardens members for this spring-time exploration of Arizona. Our tour centers around the towns of Phoenix and Tucson, where we will explore the deserts and mountains in search of blooming cactus and wildflowers. "Must see" attractions include the Desert Botanical Gardens, AZ-Sonora Desert Museum and the Saguaro National Monument. Along the way we will immerse ourselves in the history and culture of the southwest.

Highlights:

- Tour Desert Botanical Gardens and enjoy a special reception
- Visit beautiful private gardens
- Spend two nights at the famous Hermosa Inn Resort
- Enjoy group dinner at "Lon's"
- Visit the Heard Museum and Mission San Xavier Del Bac
- Tour Boyce Arboretum and Biosphere II
- Wildflower hike at Picacho Peak
- Bird and hike in the Patagonia Conservancy Area
- Tour AZ-Sonora Desert Museum followed by a special reception and dinner on the museum grounds
- Explore the Saguaro National Monument with a naturalist

The price is \$895 and includes lodging, motorcoach transportation, most meals, special receptions, voluntary tax deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens, entrance fees and guiding services. A \$300 deposit per person is required. The balance is due February 13.



Northwest Passages

Orcas, Islands & Butchart

July 11-18

The San Juan Islands are green emeralds scattered in the Puget Sound off the coast of Washington state. Cycling, hiking and sea kayaking will allow us to fully appreciate the beauty of San Juan, Lopez and Orcas islands. We will explore forest trails and quiet coves in search of deer, orcas and eagles. We will also tour the many state parks and quaint towns that have made this area a favorite get-away. The last day will be spent in Canada on Vancouver Island to hike, sight-see and visit the famous Butchart Gardens.

Highlights:

- Whale watch off Lime Kiln Park
- View wildlife at Shark Reef
- Beachcomb at Spencer Spit State Park
- Hike Mt. Constitution for spectacular views of Gulf Islands, Olympic and Cascade ranges
- Bike along pristine coves to Deer Harbor
- Whale watch and nature cruise
- Sea kayak in search of whales, wildlife and exquisite coastline
- Visit the numerous galleries, shops and museums
- Enjoy sea-side lodging
- Tour Butchart Gardens



The price is \$1,595 and includes lodging, all land and ferry transport, activities, most meals, equipment rental, voluntary tax deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required. Final payment is due April 1.



Wildflower Foray

Wildflowers, Rodeo & "Strings"

July 24-27

The sixth annual wildflower tour will uncover one of the best wildflower areas in the state. With Steamboat Springs as our base, we will tour the surrounding area for unsurpassed wildflower viewing. Hiking tours on Buffalo and Rabbit Ears passes provide carpets of wildflowers "as far as the eye can see." We also will enjoy the local culture with visits to the museum, "Strings in the Mountains Concert" and the rodeo! Tours of conservancy areas and private gardens are also scheduled.

Highlights:

- Identify wildflowers on Buffalo and Rabbit Ears passes and other locations
- Enjoy Saturday evening reserved seating for "Strings in the Mountains Concert"
- Relish the specially catered dinners
- Spend 3 nights in "on-mountain" accommodations
- Attend Friday night rodeo
- Visit private gardens, museums and nature conservancy areas

The details of the trip are being finalized.
Please call Pam Rathke at Denver Botanic Gardens after January 1 for pricing and a detailed itinerary.





The Maine Event

Gardens, Seascapes & Lobster

August 3-9

Craggy shores, deep evergreen coastlines, vibrant blue waters and "down-east" history and charm await the participants of this Maine coast experience. Our tour begins in Portland with a historical perspective, but will focus on the island of Mt. Desert. Home to Acadia National Park, Rockefeller Gardens, Azalea & Thuya Gardens, Mt. Desert also boasts numerous museums, conservation areas, miles of incredible shoreline and, of course, delicious lobsters! Join other "land-locked" members for this exclusive tour.

Highlights:

- Tour historic district of Portland
- Ferry to Islesboro island to visit private gardens, Grindle Point Lighthouse and the Sailor Memorial Museum
- Tour the Farnsworth, Penobscot and Wendall Gilley Museums
- View the famous Rockefeller, Azalea and Thuya Gardens
- Visit private gardens on Mt. Desert
- Tour Acadia National Park, including Cadillac Mountain, the Wild Gardens and Abbe Museum
- View birds and wildlife at Indian Point-Blagden Preserve
- Shop at L.L. Bean
- Enjoy special lunches and dinners at colorful locations
- Sunset cruise to island for farewell dinner

The price is \$1,295 and includes lodging, all ground and ferry transportation, most meals, activities, entrance fees, voluntary tax-deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required. Balance is due May 1.

Indonesian Odyssey

Orchids, Orangutans & Tall Masted Schooners

September 11-27

Bali, Java, Borneo and Komodo — just their names evoke a feeling of mystery and adventure. These islands, located in Southeast Asia, are part of the 17,000 island nations of Indonesia, which stretch from Singapore to Australia. With an incredible diversity of habitat, we will explore pristine rain forests, vast swamps, dense jungles, steaming volcanoes and virgin coral reefs. Along the way we will immerse ourselves in the unique cultures that abound. A special guide selected by Denver Botanic Gardens will accompany the tour.

Highlights:

- Fly to Borneo to explore the Tanjung Puting National Park and the famous Camp Leakey Orangutan Station
- Observe up-close feeding of the primates in the jungles of Camp Leakey
- Visit the world renowned Bogor Gardens on Java, home to more than 12,500 native plant species
- Enjoy several days aboard a tall-masted schooner to cruise the remote islands of Komodo and Rinca
- Hike to spy Komodo dragons, Timor deer, wild horses, cockatoo and exotic plants
- Snorkel incredible reefs teeming with tropical fish
- Tour private Balinese gardens
- Visit Rimba Reptil and Bali Reptil Parks
- Observe butterflies at Taman Kupa Kupa
- Stop at rural villages to visit master Topang wood carvers and other artisans
- Tour several museums and temples, including Pura Ulun Danau at Lake Bratan
- Visit the Neka Museum, regarded as the largest private collection of paintings in SE Asia
- Hike amid orchid draped forests of the Bedugal highlands
- Enjoy an evening of food and dance hosted by Balinese Royalty at their private palace.



The price is \$5,995 and includes round trip airfare from Denver, all Indonesian airfare, lodging, schooner costs, most meals, entrance fees, land transport, voluntary tax deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens and guiding services. A \$500 deposit is required. Final payment is due June 1. An optional 8-day extension to Irian Jaya will be offered.



Grand Canyon Rambler

South Rim, Havasu Canyon & Phantom Ranch

October 18-23

The only way to truly experience the Grand Canyon is on foot! Hiking the South Rim and Havasu Canyon provides an incredible variety of landforms, colors and spectacular vistas. And the immense feeling of accomplishment to hike the canyon is the best part. Do not put off hiking this natural wonder another year; follow other members down winding canyon trails on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure!

Highlights:

- Enjoy an evening at the famous Phantom Ranch
- Hike Bright Angel and South Kaibab trails
- Eat an elegant dinner at the historic El Tovar Lodge
- Spend two nights at Havasupai Lodge on the Havasupai Indian Reservation
- Learn about the culture of the Havasupai from a tribe member
- Explore the Havasu waterfalls
- Swim and relax at the legendary Mooney Falls

The price is \$1,295 and includes lodging, land transportation from Flagstaff, all meals, voluntary tax-deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens, entrance fees and guiding services. A \$400 deposit is required. Final payment is due July 1. An optional 2-day Colorado River whitewater extension will be offered.

Weekend Camping Outings

Arkansas River/Sangre de Cristo Mountains

Hiking, horseback riding and whitewater rafting

Rocky Mountain National Park

Hiking, wildlife viewing and mushroom identifying

Look for details in the March *Green Thumb News*

Please reserve _____ places for: (choose which trip)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baja | <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Canyon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona | <input type="checkbox"/> Steamboat Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia | |

Name/Member ID# _____

additional travelers _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to Denver Botanic Gardens

☐ Charge registration to ☐ Visa ☐ MC

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail registration form and deposit check to Denver Botanic Gardens, Attn: Pam Rathke, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206. All prices are per person and based on double occupancy. Please call Pam Rathke, 370-8051, for additional information or with any questions. Reservations will be accepted in the order that the deposits are received. Space is limited. Early registration is advised.



Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York Street • Denver, Colorado 80206



Silver fountain butterfly bush

Plant Select® profile

Silver fountain butterfly bush (*Buddleia alternifolia* 'Argentea') was chosen by DBG and C.S.U. as one of six Plant Select® choices for 1998 — plants of superior garden merit for the Rocky Mountain Region.

The only woody plant in this year's lineup, silver fountain butterfly bush is also the only plant that has been cultivated in the Rocky Mountain region for any great length of time. Unlike most familiar species of buddleia, which die to the ground almost every year, this is a tough ornamental from the high, cold plains of northwestern China. It blooms from the first year and quickly forms an elegant, vase-shaped small tree or large shrub 10 feet or more tall and across. In June the silvery branches are completely obscured under clouds of deep blue-purple flowers that arch out gracefully and create an unforgettable picture. The bulk of the species grown in this region is propagated from a handful of outstanding specimens in Fort Collins that have grown undamaged for 40 or more years.

Silver fountain butterfly bush will be available for purchase at DBG's annual Plant & Book Sale May 8 and 9, 1998, and at garden centers and nurseries next spring.

'Tree-mendously' fun time in the country

Be sure to visit Chatfield Arboretum Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the "Tree-mendous Kick-off" to Blossoms of Light.

The day of old-fashioned country fun includes children's make-it and take-it craft projects, seasonal refreshments, a holiday marketplace with handmade gifts and decorations — and of course, a chance to pick out your holiday greens.

Freshly-cut noble fir and Douglas fir Christmas trees and fragrant holiday wreaths will be for sale, priced by size. Admission to the "Tree-mendous Kick-off" is free for members and nonmembers. For more information, call 973-3705.

Give a DBG Membership!



General Benefits for All Members

- ✿ Free admission to York Street and Chatfield facilities
- ✿ Publications including newsletters and class listings
- ✿ Discounts on classes, in Gift Shop, at Plant & Book Sale
- ✿ Free events and special invitations
- ✿ Free guest passes (according to level of membership)

- ☐ The Landscaper — \$35 — Admits member and one guest each visit.
- ☐ The Arbor Circle — \$50 — Two member cards, each card admits three; summer concert discounts.
- ☐ The Botanist Club — \$120 — Same benefits as Arbor Circle PLUS 2 free summer concert tickets and merchant discounts of 10-20%.
- ☐ The Gardener — \$25 — Admits one (seniors, age 65, may ask for one extra guest pass each visit)

Please send a gift membership to:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

WorkPhone _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Sign gift card _____

Gift card ☐ taken, or mail ☐ to recipient ☐ to me, by (date) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Charge membership to ☐ VISA ☐ MC

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Recipients receive a card informing them of your gift plus a free plant that may be picked up at the Gardens.

Please return this form with payment to:

Denver Botanic Gardens Membership Office

Dept. 153

Denver, CO 80271-0153

Questions or to order by phone call 370-8029

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks those Four Seasons, corporate and supporting level members who began or renewed their memberships during the third quarter of 1997.

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Make a
perennial difference...
Support Denver Botanic Gardens'
Annual Fund today

Just as a perennial plant lives many years, your donation to DBG's Annual Fund is vital to future years of life for Denver Botanic Gardens. Membership dues and restricted gifts simply cannot cover expenses needed to offer exemplary programs and exhibits. Help DBG promote the purposeful role of plants in the lives of our children...and their children...and theirs.

Please consider a gift of \$50, \$100 or \$200 — whatever is comfortable for you!

Complete this form and mail it today. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful, tax-deductible gift.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Today's date _____

Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. date _____

Amount of gift \$ _____

For more information on the Annual Fund, call 370-8030. For information on planned giving, call 370-8027.

A special thanks to the following companies for their contributions to “Goblins in the Gardens”



Applewood Seed Company
Butler Rents
Dreyer’s Grand Ice Cream
Paper Warehouse
Target
US Toy



...and to the creative abilities of the following talented people

- Gracie Batt — for the haunted music and stories
- Bataki Cambren — the ossimiriam drummer
- Jackman Brothers Productions — for balloon sculpting and entertainment
- Jefferson Hills — for the masks and help decorating
- Laurel Hoskins — for making signs
- Kim Keller’s students at St. Mary’s of Littleton — for the Halloween murals
- Mitchell Elementary School Classroom 104 — for the Halloween wreaths
- Joni Pflucker — for the spider project
- Betty Roark — for many of the decorations
- Carolyn Marie-SaroVanek — for the Haunted Jungle Trail
- Dorothy Wells — for the leaf project



Changes in membership tax deductions

Members, please note: the Fair Market Value (FMV) for 1997 upper-level memberships has been recalculated. The FMV for the three lowest membership levels remains unchanged.

To determine your tax deductible amount, subtract the 1997 FMV from the total amount you paid for your membership in 1997:

Membership level	Fair Market Value	Deductible Amount <i>(if you paid the full amount)</i>
Gardener (\$25)	\$8	\$17
Landscaper (\$35)	\$8	\$27
Arbor Circle (\$50)	\$8	\$42
Botanist Club (\$120)	\$72	\$48
Conservator’s Society (\$240)	\$136	\$104
Perennial Partners (\$500)	\$246	\$254

Tributes

In memory of Helen M. Clifford

Margaret Wallace

In memory of Shari Nelson

Her Co-Workers

In memory of Mr. Thomas Robert O'Neil

The O'Neil Family

Syd Glick

In memory of Mrs. Mary Hart Smith

Boulder Garden Club

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You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8055 for more information.

From your membership office

Year-end membership bonuses

A DBG membership is a perfect gift for almost anyone on your holiday list. With each new gift membership, the recipient will receive in the gift announcement card a \$5 certificate good for purchases in DBG's newly expanded Gift Shop.

All new members may choose a seed packet of Rocky Mountain Natives, or one of several other small free gifts at the DBG Information Desk in the lobby, while supplies last. Fill out the gift membership form on page 7, and cross those hard-to-buy-for people off your shopping list today!

Holiday discounts for members

Don't forget that members receive a discount on admission to "Blossoms of Light" every night during the month-long celebration. Member cost is just \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors 65 and older or youth 6 to 15. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. Also as a member, you can enjoy one night of your choice for free! Just clip the coupon on this page, good for free admittance for two adults and two children.

Members at the \$50 Arbor Circle-level and above also are eligible for a \$2 per ticket discount to Holiday Concerts. All members receive 10 percent off Gift Shop purchases of more than \$10, and the Gift Shop is open every evening during "Blossoms of Light." For more information about your membership benefits during the holiday season, call 370-8029.

DBG welcomes new development associate

Anita Livingston has joined Denver Botanic Gardens as the new development associate. In her position, Livingston will focus on raising corporate support and recruiting corporate partners to the Gardens. With nine years of experience in nonprofit fundraising, she brings tremendous skills and enthusiasm to the development staff. She comes from Albuquerque, N.M., where she served as the marketing manager of corporate and ancillary sales with KNME-TV Public Television.



Blossoms of Light
1997

**This coupon admits two adults
and two children to any evening
of Blossoms of Light**

December 6 through Jan. 4, 6 to 9 p.m.

Present to cashier at 1005 York Street

**Member number, name and address must appear on
reverse. Members may purchase additional tickets
at a discounted price.**

Used books needed for spring library sale

DBG's Helen Fowler Library needs your used books, tapes and records to sell at the annual Plant and Book Sale on May 8 and 9, 1998.

Gardening and horticulture books are particularly desired, although fiction, nonfiction, children's and paperback books of all kinds also are needed. Also in demand are old phonograph records, audio and video tapes and compact discs. Since not all publications are marketable, the following are not requested for the sale: most magazines (those with gardening or horticulture topics are needed), religious books and most textbooks older than five years.

Proceeds from the sale are the main source of funding to purchase new books for the library's botanical and horticultural collections. Book donations can be dropped off at the library or at the front gate. For more information, call the library, 370-8014.

December

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Make your holidays blossom
with 'Blossoms of Light,'
Holiday Concerts and
Teddy Bear Teas this month!

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Permit No. 205

December

- 2 *Drawing Plants with Colored Pencils*
- 3,4 Herald the Season — for members only!
- 4 Gardeners of America meeting
- 5 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 6 Teddy Bear Teas
Tree-mendous Kick-off at Chatfield Arboretum
Blossoms of Light Opening Ceremony
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers Society holiday party
Colorado Water Garden Society holiday party
- 6-1/4 Blossoms of Light Holiday Festival
- 10 Holiday Concert: Wind Machine
- 11 Holiday Concert: Wind Machine
- 13 Teddy Bear Teas
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
- 14 Teddy Bear Teas
- 16 Holiday Concert: Lannie Garrett
- 17 Herb Society of America meeting
- 18 Holiday Concert: The Denver Brass
African Violet Society of Denver meeting

January

- 2 Free Day & Drop-in Tour at Chatfield Arboretum
- 4 Blossoms of Light final evening
- 11-25 Blossoms of Light lights only — to celebrate the stock show
- 19 Free Day at York Street
- 22 John Fielder Photography Lecture
- 27 New Member Party — for members only!
Beginning Botanical Watercolor
- 31-2/1 Incredible Edibles: Chocolate, Coffee & Breads

Note: Classes are in *italics*.